

New survey shows 20% rise

## Police raise doubts on own crime statistics

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF constables are casting doubt on the way crime figures are presented to the public and are to consider new methods of monitoring their forces' performance.

Police concern about the relevance of their statistics comes as a survey by *The Times* shows that recorded crime in the first three months of this year was more than 20 per cent up on the same period last year.

Lay critics and ministers have for some time criticised police figures as an inaccurate guide to the spread of crime. They say the statistics exaggerate fear and are open to misrepresentation by the police in a quest for more money. The anxiety is shared by the Home Office, which collects and issues the figures.

Now the police themselves are questioning the system and next month the Association of Chief Police Officers summer conference will consider whether the figures should continue to be published in their present form. Some officers feel that bald statistical percentage increases do not reflect the true scale of crime or the work they do.

The debate is taking place against a background of continuing increases in recorded crime, which last year showed a record annual increase of 17 per cent. In the final quarter of last year, the figure was 21 per cent higher than in the same three months of 1989, and chief constables are privately forecasting a similar increase for January to March of this year.

The *Times* survey of 20 of the country's 43 forces bears that view out. At one end of the spectrum, Dyfed Powys reported a rise of 36 per cent, while Cleveland showed an increase of 3.3 per cent and Merseyside 4.2 per cent. The 17 shire forces surveyed showed an average increase of 22 per cent, while the figure for three metropolitan forces was 13.7.

The survey indicated that crimes involving property are showing substantial rises, but figures for sex offences and violence have dropped or are rising slowly. Several chief constables have spoken of the

impact of the recession, and one suggested that a decline in property crime might be as good an indicator of economic recovery as government indices. In *The Times* survey, the four forces in the South-east where the recession is at its worst showed overall increases of about 25 per cent, including a 47 per cent rise in auto crime in Surrey and a 29 per cent rise in house burglaries in Kent.

Such figures — and some forces are expected to show even greater increases than Dyfed Powys — have fuelled the argument against the present system of analysing crime and police work. Michael Hirst, whose Leicestershire force had the highest annual increase in the country at 32.9 per cent last year, says it is time to try to find an alternative to "this sterile performance each quarter". He points out that his force solved 16 murders last year and that work meant diverting officers from many other jobs. He is now experimenting with a system of categorising crime to make such facts clear to the public. Instead of alarming global figures, people will be able to see how the police are tackling various levels of offences.

Charles Pollard of Thames Valley, also thinks change is necessary. He says he has support from a number of chief constables for figures to be published less frequently. The existing quarterly statistics did not give a real indication of trends or paint a full picture, he said yesterday. Figures should be presented in context so that people appreciate that violence represented only 6 per cent of all crime and that they were less likely to be attacked in Britain than in other European countries.

He also pointed out that dealing with crime accounted for only 18 per cent of all calls on police manpower, with traffic control, administration, training and other duties dominating police work. Crime statistics were therefore an unreliable way of assessing police performance.

At the moment, figures can be increased by a concentration of police resources on a particular area. The number of sex offences could for example be increased by a series of sweeps against homosexuals. In recent years the number of rape cases and domestic violence complaints has increased as publicity has encouraged women to go to the police. At the same time, huge percentage increases can hide very small numbers of actual offences. Norfolk has had a 56 per cent increase in robberies which is in fact a rise from 25 to 39.

The British Crime Survey, carried out three times in the past decade, is regarded as a more accurate estimate of crime, based on interviews with individuals about their experiences. It has revealed there is at least three times as much crime as the statistics show.



## Isle's tax yoke is removed

Archaic Manx laws banning Jesuits and banning cross-bows have been finally repealed, *John Winder reports*

Residents of the Isle of Man, who regard their island home as a tax haven from the rigours of the Chancellor's budgets, will be overjoyed to learn that they are now also freed of the obligation to pay the first fruits of their labour to the sovereign. They will also soon be rid of a 450-year-old ban on the use of cross-bows.

The Roman Catholic priesthood in the island will be relieved to learn that Elizabeth I's edict decreeing that "Jesuits, Seminary Priests and other suchlike disobedient Persons" must be banished will be even happier to learn that the death penalty exacted on those who "wittingly and willingly receive, comfort, aid, or maintain any such Jesuit, Seminary Priest or other Priest, Deacon or Religious or Ecclesiastical Person" is to be repealed.

All these relics of British history and more, to the extent of 700 obsolete enactments, are being removed from the Isle of Man statutes.

Back in the swing: Ian Botham, who yesterday marked his recall to the England team after an absence of two years by hitting 161 for Worcestershire against the West Indian touring team. Although his comeback to play in the series of one-day internationals against the West Indies was predicted, his response was not. It was the first time he has scored a century against the visitors. His innings included 32 fours and one six.

Glory days, page 40

## Drop in inflation to 6.4% delights ministers

By ANATOLE KALETSKY AND RICHARD FORD

THE government expressed delight yesterday about a sharp drop in annual inflation to 6.4 per cent. But the improvement in April's headline inflation, from 8.2 per cent in March, was not enough to allay City and Bank of England anxieties about underlying pressures on prices.

The bank again signalled that it would oppose a cut in interest rates next week. In the City, economists said inflation should have fallen even more steeply. Some blamed government "own goals", including the raising of value added tax from 15 per cent to 17½ per cent in the last budget.

Norman Lamont, the chancellor, said he was delighted and ministers said they looked forward to a turnaround in Conservative fortunes and the economy. But economists said much of the improvement was due to distortions created by poll tax changes.

The Retail Prices Index excluding mortgage interest payments rose by 6.8 per cent, down from 8.4 per cent in March. But the RPI excluding mortgages and poll tax jumped to 8.9 per cent from 7.3 per cent in March, largely because of the switch from poll tax to value added tax in the budget.

The increase in VAT added 0.75 percentage points to April's RPI, with another 0.4 points still to come, according to the government's statisticians. Higher than expected excise duties on alcohol, tobacco and petrol boosted the RPI by another 0.8 points. "The government took extreme risks with inflation in both the 1990 and the 1991 budgets and it is again paying the price, just as it did last year," said Peter Spencer, the chief economist at Shearson Lehman.

Government statisticians noted that retailers seemed to be "rounding up" post-budget price increases attributed to VAT and excise duties. There were some big increases in the administered prices charged by government departments and recently privatised utilities. Water and sewerage charges soared by over 17 per cent in April, electricity prices by 10.5 per cent and prescription charges by 11.5 per cent.

No room for cats, page 25

## Major attacks Labour 'lie' on hospital reform

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday signalled its intention to go on the offensive about its plans for the National Health Service as a furious "dirty tricks" row erupted over the way Labour campaigned to win the Monmouth by-election.

With the victory pushing back the date of the general election to October at the earliest, and possibly into next year, senior ministers engaged in a concerted effort to try to remove the gloss from the opposition's success.

Sources close to John Major insisted that, despite the defeat, there was no question of the reforms being slowed down, and they said that the NHS changes would be aggressively promoted. However, ministers who discussed the health service in cabinet on Thursday recognise they have been losing the argument so far and that they need to counter the claim that a self-governing hospital has in effect opted out of the NHS.

While Downing Street said that the prime minister was willing to wait until 1992 before calling a general election, Mr Major joined a chorus of ministerial colleagues who furiously attacked Labour's tactics at Monmouth and accused it of lying to win in its "carefully scripted" campaign on opt-out hospitals.

He headed a string of senior Conservatives, including William Waldegrave, the health secretary, who claimed Labour had used "dirty tricks" to rouse fears over the NHS. Mr Major's entry into an acrimonious argument which Tories hoped would overshadow Labour's victory is an indication that the government has been forced onto the defensive over its health service plans.

The opposition said the concerted attack was evidence that the government was badly rattled by the public hostility to the proposals for the health service. Opposition leaders dismissed the Con-

Labour's winner, page 2  
Leading article, page 11

"I will defend the health service." I believe in the health service, and never use anything else. The Conservative government, supported by the Conservative candidate, has the crazy idea that Nevill Hall and Royal Gwent hospitals should opt out of the NHS. This can be stopped, but only by delivering a massive No on 16th May, by voting Labour.

War of words: the Labour "dirty tricks" pamphlet for Monmouth which the Tories say cost them the seat

## TODAY IN THE TIMES

### CHILDREN



The survivable children's party: rule one, lock the house from the outside. Victoria McKee suggests venues that are better suited to taking the strain, from fast food outlets to luxury hotels Page 14

### THE KENNEDYS

The troubles of Edward Kennedy and the clan induce a national guilt which feeds morbid fascination, says Charles Bremner Page 10

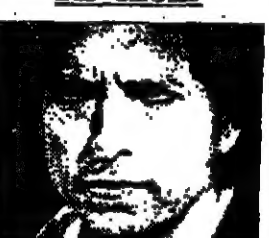
### INTERVIEW

"I was brought up to distrust the Tories." Sir Bernard Ingham goes on the record to Alan Hamilton about early training as a professional Yorkshireman Review

### THAT MATCH

Brian Clough (right) and Terry Venables, today's Cup Final managers, are compared by *Times* writers David Miller and Laura Thompson Pages 38

### DIS-CHORD



He is 50, he is flabby, he is a good joke, so why is no one laughing? Perhaps we are his joke. Alan Franks on Bob Dylan, Sixties icon, now seemingly his own iconoclast. Off has he been written off, but not (quite) here. That would be too easy Review

## Iraq jails Briton for life

By MICHAEL BRYNOR, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AN IRAQI court yesterday sentenced Douglas Brand, a British engineer, to life imprisonment for alleged spying. The government immediately condemned the sentence as "shocking" and said it would press for his release.

Mr Brand, aged 51, who was arrested while trying to leave Iraq last September, was con-

victed of spying after a brief closed trial. He escaped the death sentence, carried out last year on Farzad Bazoft, an Iranian-born journalist who worked for *The Observer*, for alleged espionage, but will have to serve 20 years in jail.

The Foreign Office announced the verdict yesterday after hearing from the Soviet

embassy in Baghdad, which has been carrying out consular visits on Britain's behalf to Mr Brand and Ian Richter, another Briton also held in Abu Ghraib prison, west of Baghdad. Soviet diplomats said that Mr Brand was taken from the prison on Sunday for his trial.

Douglas Hogg, the junior minister at the Foreign Office, said the verdict was a "totally deplorable tactic on the part of the Iraqis". Britain would put maximum pressure on Baghdad to free Mr Brand. The Iraqi action was in breach of United Nations resolutions, and Britain would press to keep economic sanctions in force as long as he was held. He told BBC radio: "There are various things that we can do with regard to Iraqi assets here in London."

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Brand: life sentence and facing 20 years in jail

No James Bond, page 5

## Debate approved

An attempt by the leadership of the Prison Officers' Association to stop a debate on an investigation into alleged financial malpractices, was declared unconstitutional by the High Court. Page 2

## Aids campaign

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, announced the establishment of an Aids action group to reinforce the campaign in inner London boroughs. Page 3

## Mystery solved

The puzzle of the Bermuda triangle has been solved with the discovery in the Atlantic of five US aircraft which mysteriously disappeared 45 years ago. Page 24

## Open results

Degree results from the Open University awarded in England will be published in *The Times* on Monday.

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## Tourism tastes the darling buds of television

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

TELEVISION'S *The Darling Buds of May* is giving Britain's hard-pressed travel industry a boost, with the Larkin family the latest in a long line of series that have led tourists abroad.

Much of the series, based on H.E. Bates' books, was set in Brittany. Almost overnight travel agents were inundated with requests for brochures, and Lunn Poly, Britain's largest travel retailer, now claims a 26 per cent increase in motorist holidays to Mont St Michel, St Malo, Dinard, Carnac and other resorts visited by the Larkins. Whether the Britons will attempt to emulate the Larkin holiday habits once they are there is a different matter.

Citalia, the biggest specialist travel operator to Italy, reported a similar surge in holidays to Tuscany after the

screening of John Mortimer's *Summer's Lease*. "It was the best thing that ever happened to tourism to the region," the managing director, Tony LeMesurier, said. "We were up at least 30 per cent immediately following the screening. Now we are keeping our fingers crossed for another *Death in Venice*."

Canny travel companies have long known the value of television. Britannia Airways surprised their rivals by starting charter flights from Luton to Australia which, it was thought, would never catch on. They had, however, cleverly chosen to launch the programme at about the same time that *Neighbours* began its long-running success. Now they carry 18,000 people a year on three flights a week.

The Association of British Travel Agents said that holiday destinations were now offering "all kinds of incentives" to film makers and television

companies to film in their resort.

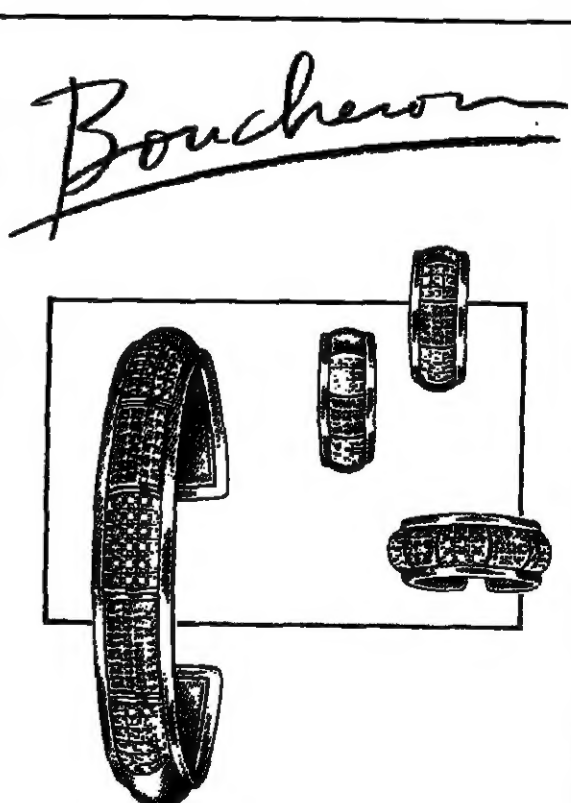
"It is quite amazing what effect it can have," said the association's spokesman Keith Betton. "When *Bergerac* was on television, for example, the number of bookings to Jersey went up sharply, as they did to Crete when *Who Pays the Ferryman* was screened. These programmes are now two-hour long advertisements."

Staff at the Jersey tourist authority were puzzled by a large increase in visitors to the island from Scandinavia. Then they realised that *Bergerac* was being shown on Scandinavian television.

With most televisions now linked to video recorders, films are also having an effect. Thomson Holidays will have an additional 100,000 holidays to Greece this year, "most of which will come as a result of the huge success of *Shirley Valentine*."



Mariette Larkin: blazing the tourist trail



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## Judge orders jail union to lift secrecy over tax enquiry



Evans: "Complying with High Court ruling"

By QUENTIN COWDRY  
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AN ATTEMPT by the Prison Officers' Association's leadership to bar the union's annual conference from debating an inland revenue investigation into alleged financial malpractices by some officials has been declared unconstitutional by the High Court, it was disclosed yesterday.

The court's decision means that it is now likely that the investigation, which concerns allegations that some full-time officials have falsified expense claims and tax returns, will be debated at the union's conference, which begins on Monday. Many members feel the union's national executive has been less than open about the affair.

Joe Broderick, chairman of the

association's branch in Brixton, south London, predicted that the conference could turn into a series of recriminations between delegates and officials. He said: "We can only consider that a cover-up is going on. Why else would the executive attempt to stifle public discussion of a matter of such obvious concern to rank-and-file members?" He said the union's leadership was hopelessly riven by infighting.

Yesterday, it emerged that officers from Brixton successfully won a High Court injunction against the executive last week, compelling it to reinstate two conference motions tabled by the branch. The ten-member executive had previously ruled that it was not in the union's best interests that the motions, one calling for the allegations to be made

public before conference, should be heard. Mr Justice Mummery ordered the association to meet the estimated £20,000 legal costs of the action, which was formally supported by the trades union's commissioner. Officers from Lindholme prison in South Yorkshire and Glen Parva jail in Leicestershire had also threatened to sue the executive. The judge's ruling has meant that the executive has had to reinstate a 1980 agreement giving conference the final say over which motions are debated.

Among the allegations being examined by the inland revenue are that officials charged for first-class rail travel when they went standard class and made false claims for the use of taxis and cars. The investigation, began early last year, continues. Officers from Brixton jail are

particularly keen that the executive should disclose a report on the allegations compiled by the union's lawyers and auditors.

David Evans, the association's general secretary, said: "We are complying with the High Court's ruling that our interpretation of the union rules was incorrect. As a result, some of these motions will be put to conference. However, we remain of the view that we don't think it is in the best interests of the membership that they should be discussed."

A union official at Lindholme prison said: "We don't think the national executive has handled this business very well at all. We've always prided ourselves in being a democratic union, but sometimes it hasn't seemed like that."



Mummery: ordered union to pay £20,000 legal costs

## Irish talks in doubt as confusion increases

By TIM JONES

THE talks on the political future of Northern Ireland were still in doubt last night as the mainly Catholic SDLP waited in vain for clarification of Wednesday's meeting between Mr Major and leaders of the two Unionist parties.

The Reverend Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, and James Moynihan, of the Ulster Unionists, had expressed their satisfaction with that meeting and said they would turn up for the talks at Stormont, Belfast on Monday. However, the SDLP and the Alliance Party said they had received no invitation to attend.

The SDLP has expressed its concern to the Irish government and asked it to seek clarification on what is increasingly a confused situation.

Dr John Alderdice, leader of the Alliance Party, said: "The talks and time are being frittered away. It is very frustrating sitting here not knowing what is happening." Yesterday, Douglas Carruthers, a part-time RUC reservist, became the second IRA victim of the week when a bomb exploded under his car in the village of Lisbellaw, Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist security spokesman, said: "But we will not be shot or bombed out of any agenda for the talks on the future of Ulster." He accused the government of "playing with the lives of people by providing totally inadequate security".

## Senior Yard man will not face charges

Wyn Jones, the highest ranking Scotland Yard officer to be placed under investigation, is to face no charges following a four-month investigation into his alleged connections with Asil Nadir, the bankrupt businessman, it was announced yesterday (Peter Victor writes).

Mr Jones, aged 47, one of the Metropolitan Police's four assistant commissioners, has been on extended leave since the enquiry by West Yorkshire police in 1988 ordered "last December".

Sir Allan Green, QC, the director of public prosecutions, said that there was insufficient evidence to justify criminal proceedings against Mr Wyn Jones. "I said the report would now be forwarded to Kenneth Baker, the home secretary."

## Factory gas fear

Five car workers were injured, the Ford factory at Halewood, Merseyside, evacuated and the Cheshire towns of Widnes, Warrington and Runcorn put on emergency alert yesterday when toxic nitrous oxide gas escaped from the factory. Some 3,500 people fled the factory, and major roads were closed. Police said it was thought the fumes were caused by injection of the wrong chemical into a tank in the paint shop.

## Plants appeal

An appeal was launched yesterday to raise £1 million to preserve thousands of wild plants facing extinction. The money will be used for plant conservation in botanic gardens. Vernon Heywood, director of the Botanic Gardens Conservation Secretariat, said the loss of plants was "a scandalous waste of one of our most useful and most overlooked natural resources".

Farmers' Diary, page 15

## Cheering delegates greet Labour's Monmouth winner

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHEERING Labour activists last night hailed their newest MP as Neil Kinnock greeted the victor of the Monmouth by-election at the opening of the party's Welsh conference.

Delegates arrived at the conference in Llandudno savouring the party's success in overturning a majority of 9,350 to seize the Tories' second safest seat in Wales. Huw Edwards captured the seat for Labour by 2,406 votes, demolishing the Tory majority enjoyed by the late Sir John Stradling Thomas at the 1987 general election.

After one of the hardest fought by-election campaigns of the present parliament, Roger Evans, the Tory candidate, was beaten by a swing to Labour of 12.6 per cent. The Liberal Democrats, with Frances David, a locally born candidate, came third.

Mr Edwards, aged 38, a lecturer at Brighton polytechnic and the son of a Welsh chapel minister, took the seat after a campaign dominated by concern over the NHS and the recession. Making his first entry into electoral politics, he won the Welsh borders seat for the second time in Labour's history. The previous occasion was in Harold Wilson's sweeping general election victory in 1966.

On a high turnout of 76 per cent, Labour took 39.2 per cent of the vote, an increase of 11.5 per cent on its 1987 share, while the Tories dropped from 47.5 per cent to 33.9 per cent. This represented a 12.6 per cent swing. The Liberal Democrats' share of the vote rose marginally from 24 per cent to 24.7 per cent.

Labour's victory had been confidently expected after two opinion polls had shown the party with leads of 8 and 10

per cent. The party drafted in Peter Mandelson, its former director of communications and the architect of its "red rose" image, to oversee the campaign, and spent the first ten days establishing itself, rather than the Liberal Democrats, as the main challenger. Mirroring national concerns,

### MONMOUTH

H Edwards (Lab)	17,739
R Evans (C)	15,327
Mrs F David (Lib/Dem)	11,184
M Witherden (PC/Gr)	577
P Carpenter (Unionist)	194
Lord Sutch (Loony)	314
L St Clair (Conservative)	121
<b>2,406 majority</b>	<b>45,100</b>

1987: J S Thomas (C) 22,387; K Gass (Lab) 13,037; C Lindley (SDP/All) 11,313; S Meredudd (PC) 653. Con maj 9,350

the future of the NHS took the public imagination with the fate of two hospitals under the government's plans for self-governing trusts dominating the latter stages.

With Labour and the Liberal Democrats focusing on the NHS, the Conservatives were forced on the defensive with the frank admission by Mr Evans that he used private medicine.

Once the opinion polls put Labour in second place, Mr Edwards became the beneficiary of tactical voting that benefited the Liberal Democrats in Ribbles Valley and Eastbourne. The Tories have lost the last five by-election seats they have defended.

Ivor Crewe, page 10

## NHS row outlives campaign

By CRAIG SETON

NATIONAL health service reforms and the future status of two local hospitals dominated the Monmouth by-election to the bitter end of the campaign and beyond, culminating in Tory accusations that the Labour victors had employed dirty tricks, lies and misinformation.

Labour's campaign tacticians drew the Nevill Hall hospital at Abergavenny and the Royal Gwent hospital into the political limelight, apparently at great cost to the Conservatives. Labour party leaflets said: "The Conservative candidate has the crazy notion that Nevill Hall and Royal Gwent hospitals should opt out of the NHS."

Mr Roger Evans, the Tory candidate, had supported the option of hospitals achieving

self-governing trust status, but yesterday he accused Labour of breaching accuracy by saying it would mean opting out of the NHS. He said Labour's "outrageous misstatement" had significantly affected the election as it implied privatisation.

Mr Huw Edwards denied that he had been elected dishonestly: "The public do not believe the NHS can be administered as if it were a supermarket. That was the appalling analogy they (the Conservatives) were using over it." Mr Edwards, a clean cut, Welsh-born lecturer at Brighton polytechnic, had presented Monmouth voters with the visage of the modern, Kinnockite Labour Party.

Yesterday, Susan Kent, the general manager of Nevill

Hall, confirmed that the management board was looking at the possibility of trust status. "We are certainly not considering opting out of the NHS," she said.

Frances David, the deputy head who came third for the Liberal Democrats, could have been forgiven for feeling overlooked in the squabble between the two main parties. She said the party had increased its share of the vote from 16 to 24 per cent.

Screaming Lord Sutch, for the Official Monster Raving Loonies, pushed the Green-Plaid Cymru candidate into fifth place. When the result was announced, it was left to him to say what everybody suspected the Labour victory would mean. "The June election has been cancelled."

## Mackay urges new dispute procedures

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

NEW flexible and less formal ways of settling legal disputes instead of the traditional route of court litigation were called for yesterday by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, of Clashfern.

In what will be seen as an important agenda-setting speech, Lord Mackay questioned whether access to justice as now dispensed by the present adversarial court system was best suited to the needs of individuals.

He suggested instead the idea of a kind of legal market place, in which different systems for settling disputes would compete in terms of price, method and remedy.

The view was growing, he said, that "the resolution of disputes is not necessarily well served by adversarial litigation" with its cost, delay, complexity and stress.

Lord Mackay, giving the 20th Upjohn lecture to the Association of Law Teachers, said that there was a growing view that new models for settling disputes had to be devised. Reformers were seeking "a structure which is less rigid and offers more scope for the involved participants to shape their own autonomous solution".

It was not just the process of litigation that was under attack, he said. The law on remedies had also come under critical scrutiny. One example was the tort system of compensation with its need to prove fault.

Lord Mackay, who has just published his own proposals for a no-fault compensation scheme in less serious road accident cases, questioned whether the traditional tort system was appropriate in all cases. He went on to urge a study of a range of ways of settling disputes, including judicial resolution, informal dispute resolution, formal resolution, or compensation other than through litigation and other approaches, such as mediation and arbitration.

He also suggested that if the state had a part in funding more than one kind of dispute resolution, a series of "gateways", or tests through which people had to pass before they could proceed, might be necessary. Such tests might include requiring people to see if the dispute could be dealt with outside the courts, such as through mediation.

## Granada sceptical of rival's TV future

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PHIL Redmond, the creator of Channel 4's *Brookside* now leading North West Television's bid to oust Granada, yesterday promised to take current affairs forward with a mix of "future affairs" and local public-access programming, should he win the coveted licence.

Backed by Yorkshire and Tyne Tees, Mr Redmond said future-affairs units would be dispatched to "dig up new issues", setting the agenda by "drawing future problems to the attention of the public so something can be done about them".

But Granada's Jane Leighton said: "In our experience, speculation about what might happen in the future is cheaper than finding out what is happening in the present. The current affairs programmes we make are what they ought to be: investigative, revealing and responsible."

North West has pledged to quadruple, localise and reinterpret regional output in a way that "weaves broadcasting into the community".

ITV company facing two challenges in the Channel 3 licence auction, has criticised the involvement of John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, in the rival Westcountry Television bid.

TSW, a member of the CBI, said it was unfair that the director-general of an organisation meant to represent its commercial interests should be involved in an effort to take away its business.

## Vice-chancellors call for talks with Major

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

VICE-chancellors yesterday asked for a meeting with the prime minister after Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, refused to see them to discuss university finances.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals approached Mr Clarke for talks on a pay review body for university lecturers, a supplementary grant to improve on a 5 per cent pay offer for the current year, and reimbursement of an estimated £35 million bill for increased value added tax.

Mr Clarke told them this week that none of the items was on offer and that he could see no useful purpose in arranging a meeting. He gave the same answer to the Association of University Teachers,

which called for the establishment of a pay review body at its summer council in London yesterday.

Sir Edward Parkes, the vice-chancellors' chairman, told Mr Clarke he found his response wholly astonishing and unacceptable. He added: "Since you are apparently unwilling to discuss important issues affecting the future of the universities with us, my colleagues and I will seek an early meeting with the prime minister."

The committee is following the British Medical Association in appealing to John Major. Their talks with the lecturers' union are deadlocked, and universities have been advised to pay a 5 per cent increase "on account".

## Enraged tone of Tory telephone rebels

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont is preparing to fight off a Tory backbench rebellion next week against his plan for a £200-a-year tax on what he described as "one of the greatest scourges of modern life", the mobile telephone.

The chancellor's comment that as a result of the tax "restaurants will be quieter and roads will be safer" raised one of the few laughs among MPs during his March Budget speech.

Even if the tax gets past next week's vote, Mr Lamont has been warned by the government whips that they can't guarantee it will survive a rebellion later this summer when the bill returns to the whole House.

Tory MP Sir William Clark, who will ask the Commons committee on Tuesday to remove the new tax from the finance bill.

They will also discuss a compromise, widely supported by Tory backbenchers, to exempt small businesses from the tax, which the Treasury estimates would raise £30 million a year from the 1.5 cellular-phone users in Britain.

Even if the tax gets past next week's vote, Mr Lamont has been warned by the government whips that they can't guarantee it will survive a rebellion later this summer when the bill returns to the whole House.

The chancellor might be forgiven for thinking his tax would hit the yuppies - sitting in their smart cars, first-class train carriages and expensive restaurants - who appear to be wedded to their status symbol. But, since March, the Treasury has been left in no doubt that mobile phones have become essential equipment in the world of tradesmen, sales representatives, small businessmen and the medical professions who need to keep in contact while on the move.

John Major has also defended the use of car phones as invaluable as do his ministers who have them fitted as standard equipment

in their official vehicles. A straw poll of 100 Tory backbenchers last month found 60 per cent opposed the scheme because it penalised small firms which were already hit hard by the economic recession.

Sir William Clark, chairman of the Tory backbench finance committee, said yesterday: "I hope to convince the chancellor that the tax is not right because these phones are a business tool which are, in most cases, insisted upon by an employer so he can keep in touch with an employee."

The Treasury said the Budget proposal should be welcomed as it simplified the tax system.

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## Bottomley changes approach after anonymous blood tests reveal failure to halt spread of HIV

# Task force to tackle London's Aids crisis

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE first results of anonymous blood testing for HIV in England and Wales have forced the health department to rethink its Aids prevention campaign. Efforts are to be concentrated more on inner London, which has the highest proportion of HIV carriers.

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, announced yesterday the establishment of an Aids action group, under her chairmanship, to reinforce the campaign in inner London boroughs.

Figures show that in some parts of London, one pregnant woman in 200 carries the Aids virus. The average for inner London is one in 500, while outside London the proportion is only one in 16,000. There is roughly a one-in-50 chance of an infected woman passing the virus to her child.

Among heterosexual men attending sexually-transmitted disease clinics in inner London, the proportion carrying the virus has risen to one in 91. Among homosexual and bisexual men in the same clinics, one in five is infected.

The figures, the first to be published from the programme of anonymous testing launched in January 1990, show that the number of people infected with HIV continues to grow. Blood samples given at 27 ante-natal clinics and six sexual-disease clinics were tested for HIV but there was no identification of donors.

The figures show that the health department's education campaign has failed to stop the growth of Aids in England and Wales, although both the total number of cases and the rate of growth are below those of most European countries. Mrs Bottomley said: "Today's

results are what we had feared. They will reinforce our policy of getting the health-education message across. We must make sure that it is targeted on the areas of greatest risk."

Sir Donald Acheson, the chief medical officer at the health department, said that the figures were "disappointing but not unexpected".

The figures show clearly that HIV remains a city problem, unevenly distributed even within inner London's health districts. West Lambeth produced 11 HIV positive women from 2,000 tested, while the same number of tests in Islington produced only two positive results.

To assess the prevalence outside London and the South-East, samples were taken from ten ante-natal clinics in Yorkshire, assumed to be typical of the country as a whole. Here, only one test in 16,000 proved positive. Of 2,043 heterosexual women tested in four sexual-disease clinics in Liverpool, Cardiff, Cambridge and Coventry, not one proved positive for HIV. Five positive tests were found among 2,935 heterosexual men at the same clinics.

The value of the figures is limited because the anonymity of the tests precluded gathering information about race or sexual conduct. The geographical concentration of the positive tests suggests a higher-than-average level of HIV in racial minority groups, but this is only an inference.

Health department officials yesterday defended the anonymity of the tests, saying it ensured the cooperation of the public. One of the tasks of the action group will be to encourage voluntary testing in high-risk areas to identify HIV carriers.



## NSPCC disbands child care team

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SPECIALIST child protection team operating among high-risk families is to be closed by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children as part of a programme to save £2.6 million over the next two years.

The society's director, Christopher Brown, said the decision had been forced by the recession and increased costs, particularly VAT. The charity hopes to eliminate a £3 million operating deficit.

The protection team to be closed is based in the west London borough of Ealing. The society believes its work can be done through other services in the area, but Harry Greenway, Ealing's Conservative MP, said last night that he hoped an alternative solution could be found. "It's a tragedy," he said.

The Ealing team, one of 66

## Muted response to agency for adoption of foreign orphans

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE government plans to establish a central agency to streamline the hazardous process of bringing foreign orphans to Britain, where the number of people eager to adopt has soared following the fall of the communist regime in Romania and revelations about the plight of its children.

But the response of child welfare organisations, who will be invited to discuss the initiative with the health department, was muted yesterday after it emerged that only £30,000 will be provided by the government to set up the agency.

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, wants the new agency to be operating by the end of the summer as a helpline and resource centre to ease the path of adoption.

In the past 12 months 250

children from overseas have been adopted, mostly from Romania, and another 30 are in the pipeline. This is out of a total of about 7,000 adoptions in Britain per year.

Many prospective adopters have complained that some local authorities have deliberately obstructed them, in the interest of getting them to take in an older unwanted British national instead, and that they have had to turn to underground networks to advise them on ways of circumventing the bureaucracy involved in bringing in an overseas baby.

The health department is expected to hold talks about the setting up of a central agency with the Children's Society and Barnardo's among others.

A spokesman for the Children's Society said: "We welcome the idea of a central organisation to deal with the problem but we are a poorly resourced child care charity and our work is on a local basis. We are just not geared to be able to cope as a clearing house."

Barnardo's said: "If the government says it is looking to us to be involved we would consider it and talk to them about it. But we are a bit concerned about what the £30,000 would buy."

The health department said that the new agency would not replace local authority social workers.

The age limit of 35, which is applied by social services departments to prospective adopters within Britain, does not apply in the case of overseas adoptions.

## Americans to shut two more British air bases

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE US air force announced the closure of two more bases in Britain yesterday, reducing the number of active operating stations in this country to four. The move is part of a Pentagon attempt to cut back on foreign bases to save money.

Near-neighbours Bentwaters and Woodbridge in Suffolk, home for the US 51st Tactical Fighter Wing, with 72 A10 "tank-buster" Thunderbolt aircraft, are to be handed back to the Ministry of Defence by September 1993. The planes will return to America. The two bases, about two miles apart, employ 3,929 US military personnel, 993 US civilians and 339 British civilians. There are 5,391 American dependants.

It was also announced yesterday that the 36 A10s at Alconbury in Cambridgeshire, one of the surviving main operating bases, are to be shipped back to America. In their place will come the 21st and 67th Special Operations squadrons from Woodbridge, and the 39th Special Operations Wing and 7th Special Operations Squadron, both from Rhein Main in Germany. These units are equipped with C130 Hercules transport aircraft and helicopters.

In January last year, the US air force announced that the Greenham Common cruise missile base in Berkshire would become a standby station, Fairford in Gloucestershire would cease to operate as a main base and Wethersfield in Essex would close.

Earlier this year, it was announced that Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire would also become a standby base, with the F111E and EF111 bombers returning home, and that the standby base at Sculthorpe in Norfolk would close. The changes mean that the US will have main operating bases only at Alconbury, at Lakenheath and Mildenhall in Suffolk, and at Chicksands, a listening post in Bedfordshire.

The withdrawal from Bentwaters and Woodbridge had been rumoured locally for some time. The US air force has had connections with the area since 1951 and an air force spokesman said the two bases contributed a total of £45 million to the local economy last year.

James Hehir, chief executive of Ipswich borough council, said the authority had been involved in talks with the defence ministry about the future of the two airfields. He said Bentwaters would make an ideal civilian airport for Ipswich and the region.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister whose Suffolk Coastal constituency includes the two bases, said the closures would have a considerable effect on local employment. A meeting had been set up between himself, Suffolk Coastal district council and the defence ministry to discuss the implications.

## Edinburgh Festival post for opera chief

BRIAN McMASTER, managing director of Welsh National Opera since 1976, is to be the next director of the Edinburgh Festival from October 1, it was announced yesterday (Simon Tait writes).

The selection process has been criticised for secrecy, but Mr McMaster, aged 48, is no stranger to controversy. In January he threatened to close the WNO when it got nothing from the Arts Council's enhancement fund. The company was saved by the intervention of the Welsh Secretary.

He succeeds Frank Dunlop who had been attacked during his eight years over the festival's musical content. "I don't subscribe to that. The festival this year is a really exciting musical prospect," Mr McMaster said.

## Uncertain future for cabinet as export ban deadline passes

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

THE deadline for the export ban on the £8.7 million Badminton Cabinet passed yesterday, leaving heritage lobbyists uncertain as to its prospects. "Its future will be considered after tonight," said a spokesman for Tim Renton, the arts minister, responsible for recommending the signing of the export licence to the trade minister.

Simon Jarvis, director of the Fitzwilliam museum in Cambridge and a leading force in the fund-raising campaign, said the cabinet's loss "will send a shameful message to posterity, and more immediately to our European friends. They may find it difficult to understand such lack of faith and pride in our shared culture and history."

He said it was difficult to avoid the conclusion that the government lacked the will to preserve Britain's moveable heritage.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the National Art Collections Fund said: "It is deeply disappointing that we have been unable to keep this magnificent work of art within the rightful context of a British public collection. We need a commitment from the government that it will dip into its contingency reserve in rare and exceptional cases."

Other campaigners complained at the lack of initiative

by the arts minister. They claimed that he could arrange for the £2.6 million pledged by the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the National Art Collections Fund and an anonymous donor to be paid to the Duke of Beaufort, the seller, the rest being paid somehow over a number of years.

The duke offered last year to sell the cabinet privately to the Victoria and Albert museum for £4 million, but when turned down approached Christie's who sold it for twice that amount to Mrs Barbara Johnson, the American baby powder heiress.

The duke was forced to sell the piece of furniture to pay inheritance tax following the death of the previous duke.

● The jewellery market made a remarkable recovery in Geneva this week, as Arab buyers returned to the scene.

As Christie's on Thursday night, Sheikh Ahmed Hassan Fitaibi, the Saudi Arabian owner of a department store in Jeddah paid Sw£3.8 million (£1.55 million) for the largest sapphire to be offered for auction. The gem, weighing 2.38 ounces, had been sold by an elderly English woman who had kept it in a bank vault since the 1940s.

● A set of gold coins from the Achaemenid era, found in a field near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,



Collecting, page 19: Claing around: Claire Taylor, of Ryecroft first school, Bradford, shows off her smile with other children at the British face-painting festival in the city yesterday

## Driver wins damages for BBC legionnaire illness

A FORMER minicab driver won £26,400 damages in the High Court yesterday after catching legionnaires' disease while driving past BBC headquarters.

Peter Lower, aged 50, whose life was said to have been devastated by the illness, became the first man to be awarded damages in Britain for the life-threatening disease.

The BBC admitted liability after the outbreak of the infection from a faulty water cooling tower at Broadcasting House in Portland Place.

Marlyebone, in April 1988. At least 90 people were thought to have contracted the disease and three, including two BBC employees, died.

The court was told that many of the 50 claims arising had been settled. It had been estimated that the BBC could face total costs of £1 million.

The claim by Mr Lower, of Camden Town, north London, was the first to reach court.

Frank Burton, for Mr Lower, said: "He feels what has happened to him is something which has completely

devastated his life." After driving past the BBC, Mr Lower was taken to University College hospital suffering from a fever, light-headedness, a dry cough and high temperature. He was in intensive care for a time and spent several weeks in hospital.

Mr Justice Macpherson said that Mr Lower suffered from confusion, hallucinations and

aggression. The disease also set off a form of diabetes. He suffered severe pneumonia which left him with a loss of energy.

Mr Lower told the judge he used to work a 12 to 14-hour day but after the illness could work only five hours. He could not pay the bills and his car was repossessed. He was now out of work. He had a

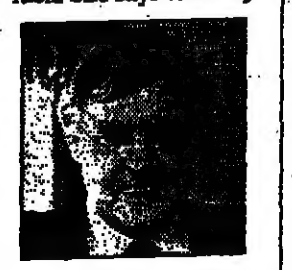
good sexual relationship with his wife before but now it was a lot less satisfying.

The BBC had contested the amount of damages. It was ordered to pay £26,400 damages and costs. In February 1989, the BBC was fined £3,600 with £3,196 costs after pleading guilty to two health and safety charges relating to the outbreak.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

## Ingham on Thatcher's final days

Pop into the cabinet room at about 8.45pm as Mrs Thatcher is preparing to start writing her speech for the confidence debate the next day. I wish her luck. She says tearfully



that all support is draining away. It does not help much, though I mean well. I tell her, gripping her arm, that whatever others feel, we in No 10 are with her. It is an emotional moment.

Bernard Ingham, from his memoirs, Kill the Messenger, in The Sunday Times tomorrow

## Mr Angry sets off to snare Basil Fawltys

By PETER DAVENPORT

THE irascible Basil Fawltys of this world, who have long regarded their role in life as making the briefest of visits to a restaurant or hotel more of an ordeal than a pleasure, are about to meet their match: the professional guest who is paid to be equally awkward and ill-tempered.

All those who have suffered the disdain of waiters, the contempt of receptionists more concerned with filling their nails than handing over the room key or the aloof dismissal by a hotel owner of any complaint, no matter how timidly offered, and then been asked to pay for the privilege are to receive their own champion.

Cleveland county council is to appoint its own professional, perpetually angry and complaining "tourist" who will roam the county trying to provoke staff in hotels, guest houses and restaurants as part of a plan to improve service. The part-time post is for two

days a week and carries a salary of £150 a month plus expenses. There are those, however, who may consider it such an opportunity to get their own back for years of ill-disguised slights and calumnies that the financial remuneration will be of only minor consideration.

Although Cleveland, created under local government reorganisation in 1974 and including industrial Teesside at its heart, may not figure in the first rank of tourist destinations, visitors do spend £60 million a year and around 14,000 jobs depend on the trade.

The idea of employing a professional guest - or "mystery buyer" as the post is described - came from Tim Rogers, the tourism officer. "This business is all about service," he said, "and the better it is, the more people will come to visit. You can have as many training courses as you like but this is the type of thing that will get noticed."

The permanently angry guest will

deliberately create awkward situations with staff and provoke arguments over bills, the quality of food and standards of accommodation. Establishments will get little warning other than some advance knowledge from the tourism department that "Mr Angry" as he is being nicknamed, will be covering general areas, such as hotels, restaurants or guest houses at a particular time.

He will then prepare reports and the results will be discussed by the tourism department and any offending establishment. It is expected that the scheme will start in June. Mr Rogers said: "We are looking for a certain type of person. The job will only suit someone who likes an argument but who has the diplomatic skill to know how to avoid taking things too far."

Otherwise any confrontation may end in the way that Basil Fawltys so many disagreements with Manuel, by the application of a quick jab to the eye.

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# Police chiefs may demand 10% 'parity' pay rises

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF constables and other senior police are planning to call for a review of salary and conditions which could include a rise worth well over 10 per cent on salaries ranging from £42,291 to £68,928 a year.

In spite of government calls for pay restraint, chief constables and other members of the Association of Chief Police Officers are reported to be increasingly unhappy about their pay structure in comparison with other local government officials.

The association represents 290 officers ranging from assistant chief constables to

the head of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The pay of junior police ranks up to chief superintendent is set by an agreed formula based on national pay trends from May to May. The likely award this year is expected to be around 8.75 per cent. Association officers plan to negotiate on a set of factors including the award for junior ranks, pay for senior civil servants, local government officials and assessments by management consultants of what a senior officer's job should be worth.

In 1988, the government overturned a recommendation for an award of between 11 and 14 per cent. It provoked an angry response from police who took legal advice on the action. Last year top officers were awarded the 9.75 per cent increase given to other ranks plus an increment of 2.5 per cent, which becomes payable this August for officers with three years' experience in their rank.

The association has warned repeatedly about low pay awards and its effect on recruiting much-needed talent to higher levels of policing. Dissatisfaction could colour the pay demand for 1990-1, which is being formulated for a meeting with Home Office and local government negotiators next month.

A number of chief constables have complained privately in recent months that pay levels for top officers bear no relation to the demands of the jobs or the responsibilities compared with other officials. The package could include calls for a reduction in the minimum retirement age of 55 to 50 in line with junior ranks.

Chief officers are ranked by comparisons between their salaries and other officials such as chief fire officers and the heads of county council departments who, they argue, have to manage smaller workforces, budgets and workloads.

While senior police officers receive substantial housing allowances, which can be worth more than £4,000 a year, local government officers can benefit from productivity packages or performance-related deals.

The pay scales for fire officers, based on population, and official local government pay scales, start at £34,689 a year and rise to £75,048 in London. The chief constable of the West Midlands receives £61,029 a year while the fire officer can receive up to £65,259. The chief constable of a large county force covering a population of more than 1.25 million would earn £57,366 a year while the chief fire officer could be earning up to £58,890.

Heads of local government departments start at £20,685 a year for an area with a population of 50,000 and rise to £62,421 for a population of more than one million. The pay scales for chief executives range officially from £30,342 to £77,064 a year but considerably more is reportedly being paid by some authorities.

## Nelson's home up for sale

THE vicarage in the Norfolk village of Spoor, where Horatio Nelson was brought up, is for sale.

The grade two listed building, with five bedrooms, two bathrooms and 7.5 acres is on offer at £375,000. Nelson's father and grandfather were both vicars of Spoor, two miles northeast of Swaffham.

## Channel walk

French trade unionists walked halfway through the 32-mile Channel service tunnel yesterday before police turned them back. They were protesting against Robert Maxwell's closure of a printing plant. They eventually reached London in coaches and staged a vigil outside Mirror Group newspapers before a meeting at the TUC.

## Digger rescue

Two sisters aged 14 and 16 were rescued in the bucket of a digger from an upstairs bedroom when fire broke out at their home in Wellesbourne, Stourbridge, West Midlands.

## Racehorse killed

A racehorse was killed and its rider slightly injured by a stolen car being chased by police in Epsom, Surrey; two cars were also damaged. A man aged 25 was later arrested.

## £18.5m to lose

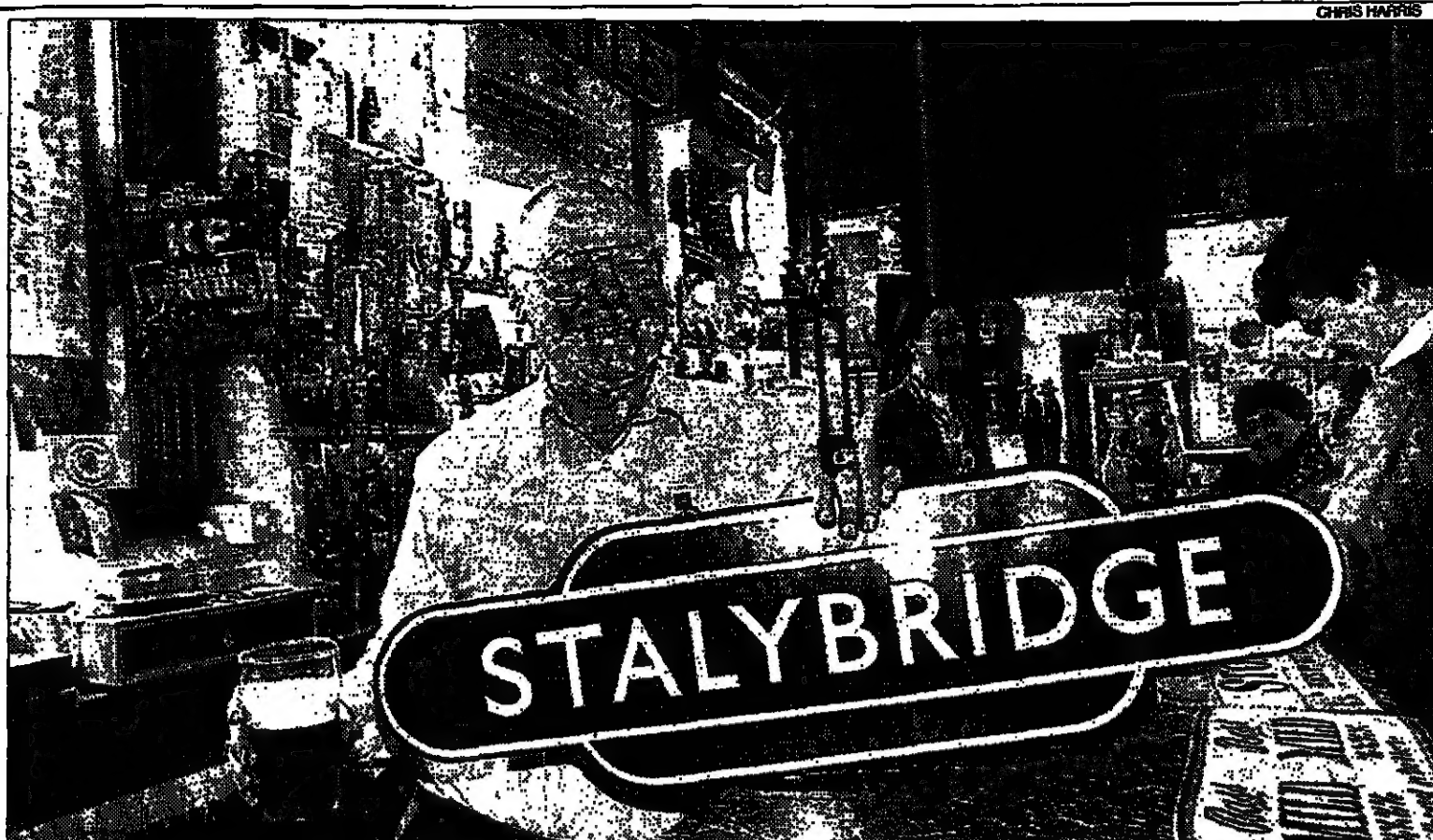
Labour-controlled Lothian regional council may cut £18.5 million from its budget to avoid being capped. Ian Lang, Scottish secretary, agreed yesterday to accept that figure in place of his original demand for a £23.5 million cut.

## Man overboard

A man was recovering in hospital yesterday after falling out of a boat in the middle of a road. Carl Turner, of Windsor, Berkshire, was in the back of a boat being transported through Cardiff when he fell overboard.

## Loss of form

Completed census forms have been found in the street in Kingston upon Thames.



Rail ale: Ken Redfern, publisher of the buffet bar at Stalybridge station, Greater Manchester, who is fighting plans by British Rail which could result in the property's being sold (Ronald Faux writes).

Mr Redfern's family has run the bar, which has been nominated as the best public house in Britain, for

the past 22 years and is being supported in his battle by a 10,000-name petition.

Stalybridge, a halt on the main line between Liverpool and York, attracts many more than passing railway travellers. In the days when Mrs Dorothy Redfern ran the bar it was affectionately known as Doc's

diner but in recent years it has specialised in its variety of ale kept in cool Victorian cellars. There have been accolades from the Campaign for Real Ale and support from the local MP.

Mr Redfern, who also lives on the premises, said: "They want us to sign a new lease which would mean

that in a year we could be obliged to leave." The Victorian building, which retains many original fittings, would then be available, along with its considerable reputation, for redevelopment.

"All we want is the right to carry on. A private buyer could flatten the place," Mr Redfern added.

## Kirk to rule on women elders

By KERRY GILL

THE Church of Scotland will hope to stem today a fundamentalist backlash among members who are against the ordination of women elders.

A growing number of younger ministers has opposed the introduction of women elders in spite of an act allowing their ordination passed by the General Assembly 25 years ago.

The debate, one of the first of this year's assembly in Edinburgh, is seen as a way of clarifying the church law and putting an end to the fundamentalists' desire to turn the clock back. Women became eligible for ordination as elders in 1966 but the fundamentalist wing has only

emerged as a potent force in recent years.

The assembly of 1,250 ministers and elders will be asked to make its views on the issue plain today. The church's board of practice and procedure wants the assembly to reaffirm that a denial of women's eligibility to the eldership would contravene the 1966 act.

It will also call on those kirk sessions, the governing bodies of each church, who have no women elders, to consider appointing some. The church hierarchy feels that the fundamentalists are taking a too literal view of the scriptures as applied to women. The Rev

Dr Finlay Macdonald, the board's chairman, said that the church did not compel positive discrimination but, equally, it could not condone negative discrimination against women being ordained as elders.

The growing evangelical movement, however, has seen the number of women elders grow over the past few years.

A survey taken more than five years ago showed that although women made up 66 per cent of Church of Scotland membership, only 16 per cent were elders. This figure had grown to 24 per cent last year while women communicants remained the same.

## BR braced for record protests over tunnel bill

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail is expecting up to 20,000 objections to the bill for the proposed Channel tunnel high-speed rail link between London and Folkestone, the highest recorded in the history of parliament, rail officials said yesterday.

The disclosure follows indications from Roger Freeman, the transport minister, that the government will reject BR's request for authority to build the new line by means of a hybrid bill, rather than the more precarious private bill procedure.

A decision against a hybrid bill would effectively rule out any prospect of Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman, submitting the rail link bill to parliament before November 1992, which would delay completion of the 69-mile link until the end of the decade.

BR's confirmation of the decision in favour of King's Cross as the link's London terminus came during last week's committee hearings into the proposed re-development of the station.

The submission by BR is understood to be as thick as three telephone directories, containing separate sections on the link's social and environmental impact, and its financial, engineering, and parliamentary aspects. The report is not expected to be published until the summer or autumn.

BR's aim of winning government support for a hybrid bill, which can be laid at any point during the parliamentary session, would have guaranteed the rail link's safe passage through a potentially hostile parliament. All hybrid bills are subject to the rigours of party discipline, and the principle of the bill cannot be challenged once it has completed its second reading in the Commons.

Under the private bill procedure, however, bills must be presented on or before November 27 each year by the sponsoring MP. As the government is officially neu-

tral, party discipline is not enforced. In addition, because there is no mechanism for guillotining debate at the end of the legislative procedure, private bills are particularly vulnerable to wrecking amendments.

Rail officials are anxious that by the time a bill is ready to be deposited in parliament, the proposed reform of the private bill procedure, which will introduce a new public enquiry element, could lead to a series of legal challenges from objectors.

At the union's conference, left-wingers will argue that holding the election was in defiance of union conference decisions. The executive will oppose the move though it may be supported by the left. The election could face further difficulty. Under labour legislation, general secretaries have to take office within six months of election. But Mr Gill will not leave the job until his 65th birthday, in August next year.

The result is the first of a series of four key union leadership elections. The result of the contest for the GMP general print union will be declared on May 31, that of the TGWU transport union on June 7 and of the EETPU electricians on July 1.

## Salute to Oklahoma oilmen

By DAVID YOUNG

A STATUE is to be unveiled and a nature reserve dedicated today in Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, to honour the oilmen of Oklahoma who helped Britain exploit vital oil reserves in the area during the second world war.

The men arrived in checked shirts and cowboy boots, and brought their own drilling rigs as the American government had banned the sale of any oil-drilling technology to foreign countries.

Secrecy surrounded their work and they lived with monks in a monastery in the forest, giving rise to speculation locally that they were a Hollywood film crew carrying out a remake of Robin Hood.

This colourful period in Britain's oil industry history was kept secret for years but all has now been revealed in time for today's ceremony. It will be attended by several of the oil crew survivors.

The oil fields in Dukes Wood had been discovered several years before by BP which, during the war produced, more than 70 million gallons of oil from the area. To



Forest tribute: the statue dedicated to the oil crews

step up production in 1942 the company was forced to turn to America for help. Two Oklahoma companies, Noble Drilling and Fein-Porter Drilling, agreed to send crews and as part of their contribution to Britain's war effort agreed to work for no profit.

The team of 40 brought four drilling rigs and within a month had completed four wells whose nodding donkeys

pumped the oil to refineries to be turned into aviation fuel.

After reaching their 100,000 ton target the men sailed back to America in the spring of 1944. It was only after their departure that news leaked out.

Geoffrey Lloyd, secretary of state for petroleum at the time, said: "This oil field, like Britain, is small but of the highest quality."

## Yacht crews face peaks and troughs in gruelling contest

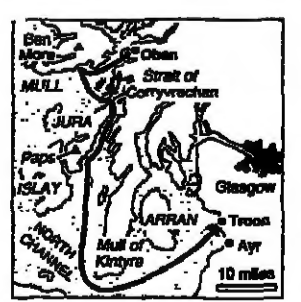
By KERRY GILL

MORE than 50 yachts and their crews set out yesterday on the gruelling three-day Bruichladdich Islands peaks race off, on the west coast of Scotland. The route, from Oban in Argyll to Troon in Ayrshire, threads its way down the coast stopping to allow runners on each yacht to climb local mountain peaks.

The runners limbered up for a five-mile run round Oban before sailing for the island of Mull where the first climb was up Ben More. The race continues without a break.

After Mull they sail to Jura where they must climb the three Paps. They carry full mountaineering equipment in case they become lost.

Meanwhile the crews have to negotiate some of the trickiest waters around Britain, including the



Corryreckan whirpool off Jura, and navigate their vessels round the difficult reaches of the Mull of Kintyre.

The organisers make no excuses for its exhausting schedule. Lionel and Barbara Mills believe that modern life is far too soft and the race is a welcome break for those who wish to extend their physical and mental abilities.

"The runners cover the equivalent of three marathons over the three days and have to scale a total of

11,500 feet," Mr Mills said. "The yachts cover more than 160 nautical miles using only wind or manpower."

He said that the runners had to exercise extreme care. "You have to be bright. Fell running means hammering down a hill at high speed. Considering that a lot of the running is done on loose scree, often in the dark and with the runner feeling seasick after a spell on board, it's amazing that very few people damage themselves."

Unwelcome incidents have been few in the race's eight-year history. Mr Mills said: "Last year one boat left Mull on a calm night and was rowing against the tide when it was stopped by customs. They searched it for drugs and checked the VHF licence. By the time they had finished the vessel had drifted back to the point where it started from."

## Left may challenge election of new union chief

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEFT-wingers in the MSF general technical union are today expected to try to unseat the general secretary only two days after his election by almost two to one majority.

Roger Lyons, who is assistant general secretary and seen as the more moderate candidate in the election for the top job in the left-led union, said after his election that he had taken legal advice about the planned challenge at the union's conference in Bournemouth.

Though MSF leaders made efforts yesterday to unite the union after a bitterly-fought campaign, the continuing row over the general secretaryship is an embarrassment both to the TUC and to the Labour party. The MSF - formed when ASTMS and Tass merged in 1988 - is one of the largest unions.

Mr Lyons polled 73,158 votes against 42,209 for Barbara Switzer, the only other candidate, and also an assistant general secretary. The turnout was 21.8 per cent.

Ms Switzer, a Labour party member who represents MSF on the party's national exco-



Lyons: regarded as the moderate candidate

utive, was regarded as the left candidate, and the one closest to the policies of Ken Gill, the departing general secretary, a former Communist party member. The result will privately be welcomed by advisors of Neil Kinnock.

At the union's conference, left-wingers will argue that holding the election was in defiance of union conference decisions. The executive will oppose the move though it may be supported by the left. The election could face further difficulty. Under labour legislation, general secretaries have to take office within six months of election. But Mr Gill will not leave the job until his 65th birthday, in August next year.

The result is the first of a series of four key union leadership elections. The result of the contest for the GMP general print union will be declared on May 31, that of the TGWU transport union on June 7 and of the EETPU electricians on July 1.

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## Briton jailed as spy was no James Bond, says wife

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DOUGLAS Brand, the explosives expert sentenced as a spy in Iraq, was "certainly no James Bond", his wife, Rosemary, said yesterday after hearing that he had been given a life term. "There has been a terrible mistake. It is ludicrous to call him a spy. All I can say is please let him go," she said.

Mr Brand won the Military Cross in Aden, commanded a unit of the Special Boat Squadron while he was in the marines, and became an underwater explosives and security expert. He left the

marines 14 years ago and was employed by an Edinburgh company, working on contract for Baghdad to clear the Shatt al-Arab waterway of mines. He was arrested last September trying to flee Iraq, and nothing was heard of him until January, when an American television cameraman held by the Iraqis saw him in prison. Baghdad told the Soviet embassy, one of the few remaining in Iraq, that he had been arrested but gave no reason. Mrs Brand, at home in Banbury, Hampshire, said: "Dougie is just a businessman trying to earn a living. It was because of the skills he learned in the SBS that he was working in the Gulf."

The Foreign Office has asked Zuhair Ibrahim, an Iraqi diplomat in London, for an explanation of Mr Brand's arrest. Britain has no representation in Baghdad and is relying on the Soviet embassy there for help.

Another Briton, Ian Richter, who has been in prison in Iraq since his arrest in 1986 and was sentenced to life imprisonment as an "intermediary" in a corruption case, was never formally charged during his trial. Britain has made representations to Iraqi officials in London, Washington and Geneva.

● BAGHDAD: Masoud Barzani, the leader of the Kurdish delegation negotiating a self-rule pact with Baghdad, said yesterday that most major obstacles to an agreement had been overcome. He expected to give details today.

## Kuwait puts 200 on trial

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER, IN CAIRO

PUBLIC trials of more than 200 people suspected of collaborating with the Iraqi occupation forces are scheduled to open in Kuwait City tomorrow, according to senior government officials there.

Most of those accused are Palestinians or Iraqis and many face the death penalty. Foreign journalists and diplomats have been invited to attend the proceedings, which have been dismissed by several opposition lawyers as "staged farce".

Hamad al-Othman, acting attorney-general of Kuwait, said that anyone convicted of spying or "breaching the independence of the country, its unity or the safety of its territory" would be put to death. "He who is found to have harmed Kuwait's political, military and economic position will be punished by life sentence," he said.

He said that the general prosecution office was looking into about 900 cases, including more than 200 of alleged collaboration. Questioned about the criticism of opposition lawyers, he replied: "Their purpose is to destabilise the country."



Resistant Brand: "Dougie is just a businessman"

CAIRO NOTEBOOK by Christopher Walker

## Drinkers spared gripes of wrath

Egypt's Islamic fanatics, who want to transform the country into another Iran, have suffered a defeat in their attempts to tax alcohol out of existence. The moderate government of President Mubarak, who is a teetotaler, resisted their attempts to have the tax imposed on alcoholic drinks, and instead ordered alcohol to be exempted in the same way as tea and sugar, two products favoured by those who want to see the country embrace Sharia (strict Islamic law).

The move is the latest blow to the militants, who failed in early efforts to prevent production of Egyptian Stella beer and a number of local wines, of which

tabled a new draft bill which would ban the import of all equipment for making alcoholic drinks and outlaw their domestic manufacture.

The Islamic weekly *Al-Nour* (The Light) reported that the prohibition lobby had resisted strenuous pressure from the government to have the bill dropped. "The deputies completely rejected that revenues to the treasury should come from sources forbidden by Sharia. Special committees of the People's Assembly will start studying this bill over the next few days."

Since the death of the Iranian leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, once referred to by Zaki Badr, the Egyptian former interior minister, as a "dog" and a "pig", militant Islamic groups have found it difficult to finance their campaign to turn the country into an Islamic republic. There have been signs in recent weeks that they are now turning to mafia-style armed robberies.

The police recently arrested 12 members of the outlawed Jihad organisation involved in two raids on Cairo jewellery shops. The interior ministry has claimed that the militants planned to destabilise the country, and said the fanatics planned to sell the 26lb of gold which they seized to finance their operations.

Islamic militants are also believed to have been behind a robbery at a jewellery store last month in which six masked men, armed with automatic weapons, killed one man, wounded several others and escaped with about 80lb of gold. The Muslim-inspired crime wave has caused panic among Cairo merchants who had previously traded in a relatively crime-free, if desperately overcrowded, city. "We have become very suspicious of any young customers with beards," one jeweller in the Khan Khalili bazaar said.



Omar Khayyam red and Gianacis Village white are the most popular. Other locally produced tipples include Zibib, the Egyptian version of Lebanese Irac, and Zattos, a rum. Most hotels and upmarket restaurants also stock a wide variety of imported drinks, albeit at inflated prices.

The sales tax decree has weakened the anti-drink lobby, which has already persuaded some of the provincial governments to order prohibition and has ensured that Egyptian, the national airline, is dry except for passengers in first class, who are still given miniatures of spirits.

A group of more than 35 deputies, including members of the ruling National Democratic party, have now



Bombing victim: a wounded man being helped away by a friend and a policeman, right, after a bomb exploded in a pub in Hillrow, Johannesburg, wounding at least seven people. Yesterday, three black women and a child were

badly injured when a bomb, which was hidden in a women's lavatory, exploded in a central Johannesburg shopping centre crowded mainly by blacks as the executive of the African National Congress held a crucial meeting over its ultimatum

to the government to break off constitutional talks unless violence is controlled (Ray Kennedy writes). At least three more bombs were found and defused, one in a car park near police headquarters at John Vorster Square. Police said

that the devices were Soviet-made limpet mines. The bombings followed a warning on Thursday from Nelson Mandela, the deputy president of the ANC, that black township violence could spill into white areas.

## US home for Libya guerrillas

New York — After searching in vain for a home for 350 Libyan soldiers trained to overthrow Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, the United States has decided to take them.

They were part of a group of 600 who received guerrilla training from "American intelligence officials" during the Reagan presidency for the operation that did not take place. *The New York Times* said. The rest had decided in Zaire to return home. The 600 were among prisoners captured in fighting in a border dispute between Libya and Chad. (Reuters)

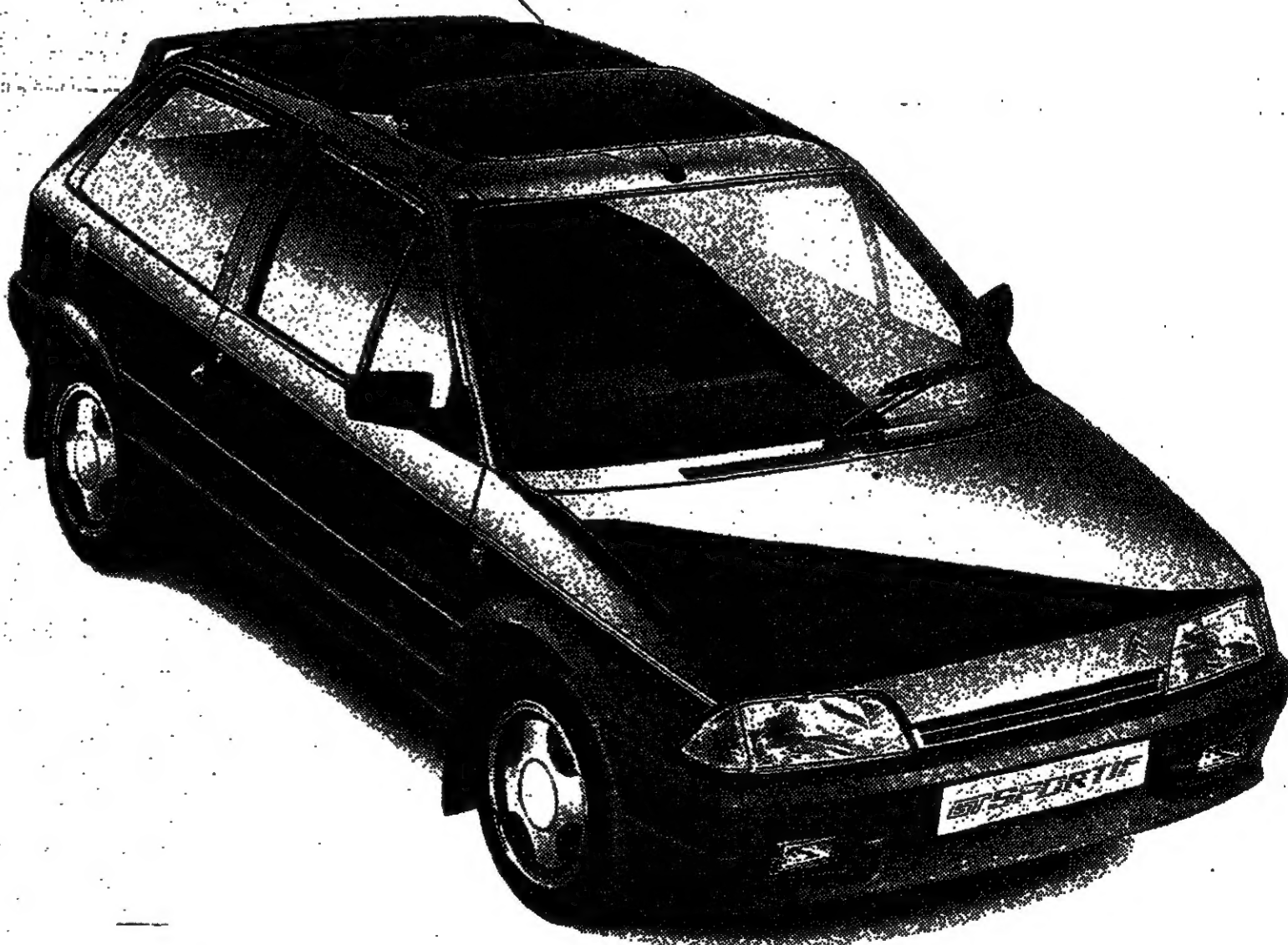
## Arafat plea

Jerusalem — Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, has urged Abie Nathan, the Israeli peace activist, to end the fast he began 21 days ago in protest at an Israeli law barring contacts with the PLO. (Reuters)

## Aids transplants

Atlanta — Federal government officials are trying to trace up to 59 people who received organs and tissue taken from a man infected with the Aids virus. A newspaper said recipients of his heart and kidneys died of the disease. (Reuters)

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## Bush and Baker to map out next step in search for peace

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, yesterday prepared to brief President Bush at the White House on the results of his latest Middle East trip and to discuss if and how Washington's post-Gulf war pursuit of a comprehensive peace settlement for the region should continue.

Despite the extreme reluctance of Israel and Arab states to make meaningful concessions during Mr Baker's two months of shuttle diplomacy, Britain is strongly urging the Bush administration not to give up at this critical stage, and is confident that it will not. A senior British official insisted this week that extremists "always" wanted this to be a one-act farce. They



Assad: continuing to give support to Baker efforts

must be proved wrong," Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, is to meet Mr Baker in Washington on Monday. The Middle East is expected to be high on their agenda.

One peace proposal being floated in Washington is the "thunderclap" idea whereby Mr Bush, calling in a mass of IOUs, announces that he is convening a Middle East Peace conference in the American capital to which all parties would be invited. The administration would set un-negotiable ground rules, the Soviet Union could be a co-host, and economic, military or other sanctions would be imposed on any party that refused to attend.

In Luxembourg yesterday, President Mubarak of Egypt said he was ready to invite Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, to Cairo. He said he thought that steps towards organising a peace conference could be completed by the end of the year.

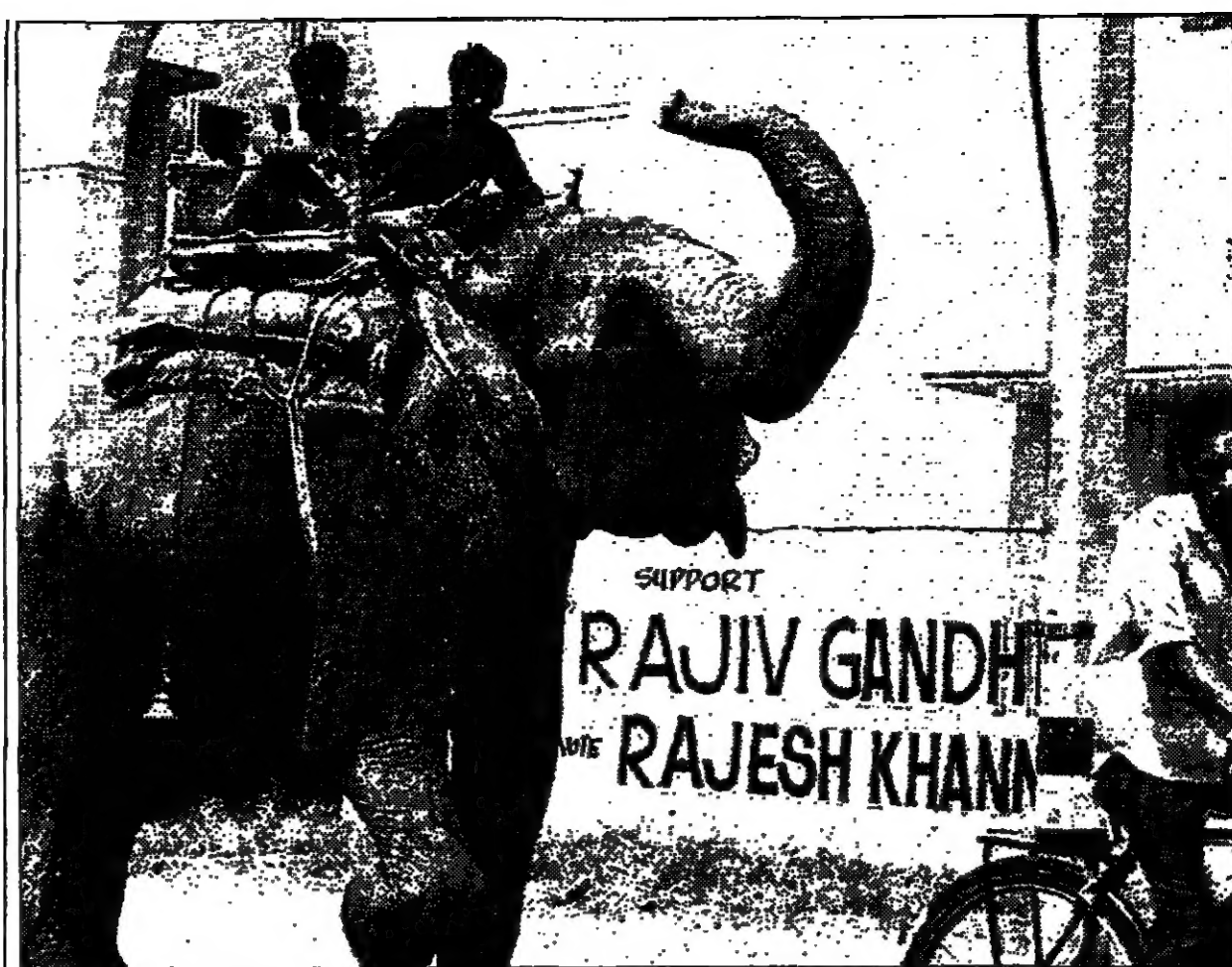
In Israel, the view was that Mr Baker had secured agreement from all parties to full Soviet involvement in the peace initiative and some form of representation for the European Community and Gulf Co-operation Council. He seemed also to have gone some way towards solving the problem of Palestinian representation at a peace con-

ference after securing the agreement of King Hussein of Jordan to a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

In marathon talks in Damascus and Jerusalem, however, he appeared to have made almost no other headway. Although Israel and Syria were at pains to emphasise that they are serious about the American initiative and anxious for peace, both sides have lost little time in blaming each other for intransigence and responsibility for thwarting US peace moves. Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister, yesterday made a veiled threat against Syria's role in Lebanon, the latest in a series of attempts to cast Damascus as the real aggressor in the region.

Members of Mr Baker's entourage appeared to have come away from their talks in the Middle East with the depressing conclusion that neither side presently feels it has anything to gain by negotiating.

Despite the reluctance of the parties to attend a peace conference, both sides badly need the support of the Americans. Therefore, Mr Shamir and President Assad of Syria have continued to encourage Mr Baker in his efforts and are being extremely careful not to give the impression that they are to blame for his failure.



Trampling the party line: an elephant passes a slogan in Delhi yesterday backing Rajiv Gandhi, the Congress (I) party leader, and Rajesh Khanna, a candidate and popular film star, in the Indian elections starting on Monday

## Calcutta communists hold election key

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN CALCUTTA

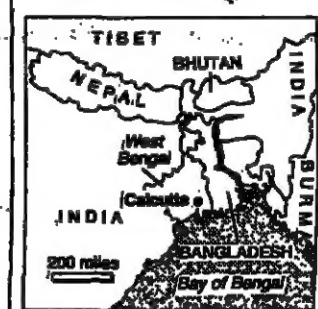
THE communists of Calcutta still brandish the hammer and sickle despite the collapse of marxism in Europe. But if new opinion polls are to be believed, they could help to form the next Indian government. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) operates from a

chaotic, half-derehkt office down a filthy Calcutta side-street, where yesterday the latest issue of the party journal, *Ganashakti*, was being put to bed. Mridul De, an editor, said a proletarian revolution was not being pursued at present. "Our aim in the long term is revolution, of course, but only in the Indian context. We apply marxism to fit our own circumstances. We are not following the example of any other country." The collapse of communism in Europe has forced the communists of West Bengal, of

which Calcutta is the capital, to tone down their rhetoric, although at rallies speakers still call for a workers' revolt. In practice, the style of communism in West Bengal is pragmatic and adaptable. Having scared away most industrialists during 14 years of unbroken power, the communist state government is now trying hard to lure capitalists back.

For the poor of Calcutta, the issue in next week's election is poverty. For the better-off, it is the incessant power cuts, which sometimes last for days, and the virtual collapse of the telephone system. The communist government is offering financial incentives to big industrial houses in the hope of generating wealth to update the disintegrating infrastructure, but they are not interested.

The marxists' election manifesto perhaps explains why. Although it does not use the



word revolution, its economic policies are an echo from the past. It urges the nationalisation of the jute and textile industries, state takeovers of all private industries, a halt to the "massacre of jobs in the name of advanced technology", and the right to work enshrined in the constitution.

Opinion polls, though unreliable, have all pointed to either a hung parliament, or a small majority for the Congress (I) party. If Rajiv Gandhi, its leader, and his allies fail to win outright, he is likely to look to the communists to form a government. In the last general election in 1989, the communists and their left-wing allies captured 52 seats in the 544-member Lok Sabha (lower house). They are likely to capture at least as many this time.

## Pakistan groups oppose Sharia

Karachi - Opposition politicians in Pakistan have vowed to fight the introduction of Sharia (Islamic law) as the country's supreme legal code (Zahid Hussain writes). In mosques, prayers of thanksgiving marked the passage of the bill on Thursday night, and Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan, was praised for steering it through the National Assembly.

Mr Sharif told a large gathering at a mosque in Lahore that the bill would lead to the creation of an Islamic welfare state, and appealed to the country for support in implementing the code. However, he cautioned that an Islamic revolution would not occur overnight. "This is an evolutionary process. The society will change with your help."

Addressing the National Assembly on Thursday, Mr Sharif said that the bill was not only opposed by the Pakistan People's Party led by the former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, but also by some of the extreme fundamentalist allies of his coalition government.

The new law has aroused greater suspicion than any other piece of Islamic legislation passed during the 11-year rule of the late military dictator General Zia. He had enforced some Islamic laws relating to crime and punishment, but had not imposed outright Sharia since it could have led to the domination of the country by fundamentalists.

Hardline fundamentalists claimed the new bill had watered down the provision of actual Sharia, while liberals said that the measure was not as innocuous as it seemed.

In the past, differences of opinion over Sharia have led to bitter sectarian riots. Ms Bhutto criticised the bill as establishing the supremacy of the fundamentalists over parliament.

## Corruption purge

Hanoi - Vietnam's campaign against corruption and smuggling resulted in 5,900 convictions between June last year and March, mostly of state officials or employees, the Vietnam News Agency said. One person was sentenced to death and four were given life imprisonment. (Reuters)

## Happy landing

Melbourne - A girl, aged six, fell 18 storeys from a block of flats here and survived after a tree and bushes broke her fall, police said. The girl, who went through a window when the glass smashed, was recovering in hospital with a fractured thigh and bruising. (Reuters)

## Zaireans jailed

Kinshasa - Eight Zaireans, including government officials, were jailed for up to 15 years for their role in a commando action against students in Lubumbashi a year ago, in which at least one person died. (AFP)

## Fijian refusal

Suva - Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka, who led two Fiji coups in 1987, said he was rejecting an offer to be deputy prime minister and home affairs minister. (Reuters)

## Israel shows flagging zeal for protocol

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, may have been surprised to see the Hungarian tricolour greet him on the streets of Jerusalem when he arrived on his latest peace mission to Israel this week.

But as any taxi-driver, held up in a Jerusalem traffic jam waiting for an official motorcade to pass, will tell you, the Americans are no longer the only people who visit Israel. Mr Baker caught the tail end of a visit by Jozsef Antall, the Hungarian prime minister, the latest in a flurry of official and state visits by leaders whose countries are re-establishing full diplomatic ties with Israel.

Eventually some stars and stripes were put out in honour of Mr Baker. But even before his aircraft had taken off for home workmen were replacing them with the red-and-white flag of Poland in an effort to keep up with the giddy pace of Israel's new acceptance by the world community. President Walesa of Poland begins his visit on Monday

after visits by official delegations from Czechoslovakia, Portugal, Canada, Greece, not to mention the visit earlier this month by Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, and the first trip by a senior Kremlin official, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister.

The centre for the preparation and execution of this diplomatic activity is in a collection of makeshift, one-storey buildings in Jerusalem, built as barracks for the British Army when Palestine was under British mandate, and now the offices of the foreign ministry.

The niceties of protocol have never been an Israeli forte, and the diplomats are discovering that the only thing worse than being ostracised and ignored on the world stage is to have international attention lavished on you all at once. "It is nice to be recognised, I suppose," said one diplomat. "But I am only half-joking when I say it was better in the old days when we could get some work done."

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# Walesa thrashes out reform package as strikers dig in

From Roger Boyes in Warsaw

PRESIDENT Walesa of Poland, alarmed at growing industrial unrest, yesterday summoned the country's economists for a two-day session to decide the future of the government's radical market reforms. The meeting was being watched not only by striking copper miners, dustmen and bus drivers, but by the other reforming states of Eastern Europe who are considering whether they can afford to follow the high-risk Polish model.

There has been much speculation in Warsaw that Mr Walesa was using this unusual economic summit as a prelude to dumping the government of Jan Krzysztof

Bielecki, barely five months in office, and his finance minister, Leszek Balcerowicz. But the president tried to squash the rumours in his opening address: "I know that the government has the best intentions—I fully trust it. Both the government and the Polish reforms have to be helped."

Mr Walesa's idea was probably to flush out the government's left-wing critics, but at the same time force it to make concessions to appease workers who are suffering under tight wage controls. Even so, the government was on the defensive. Professor Balcerowicz told the economists: "There is no chance of a sensible economic policy—no

matter how it is constructed—if it continues to be undermined from the inside." On the eve of the meeting, the government held an emergency session to agree what ground could be surrendered. The first concession was to devalue the zloty against the dollar by 16 per cent, a move that should boost exports and make imports more expensive, so giving domestic producers a breathing space.

However, the professor's critics were looking for something more fundamental. Professors Stefan Kurowski and Jan Winięcki, who advise the president, laid into the finance minister. Professor Kurowski believes that the government should give farmers preferential treatment and move to set up a selective industrial programme, easing interest rates and taxes for key sectors to remain competitive.

Mr Walesa's advisers are also against the government's strict wage-control tax. Another, less effective attack on Professor Balcerowicz came from a left-wing economist, Ryszard Bugaj, who identified unemployment, set to rise to more than two million this year, as the main problem.

The discussion was accompanied by the drumbeats of social protest. Miners in the copper industry, one of the most profitable export sectors, went on strike for five days. Rubbish is piling up because of the dustmen's strike against wage controls, and bus drivers in Białystok are on hunger strike. The Solidarity trade union has called for a national day of protest against government policies on Wednesday and a general strike does not seem far off.

This crisis of confidence is disturbing for the government's many Western advisers. Argentina and Brazil pursued similar policies, combining tough anti-inflation measures with structural changes, but gave in to pressure for higher wages. The result was economic chaos and a sapping of democratic institutions.

Poland is torn between the need to keep down inflation and reduce the devastating effects of the recession. Warsaw has promised the International Monetary Fund that inflation will be brought down to 1 per cent a month. This is already regarded as unrealistic, and one purpose of the meeting is to determine an acceptable level of inflation.

## Poland dodges abortion issue

From Our Own Correspondent in Warsaw

THE Polish parliament yesterday postponed discussions on a controversial abortion bill in an attempt to avoid a rift between church and state before the Pope begins his pilgrimage to Poland next month.

The lower house voted by 205 votes against 145, with 14 abstentions, that the proposed ban on abortion should be considered later this year, probably by a newly elected parliament in the autumn. In the meantime, the government should work out a programme of sex education and an improved welfare system for single mothers and large families to reduce the need for abortion.

Taking advantage of the relaxed rules on abortion, introduced by the communists, about 500,000 pregnancies were terminated every year. The Catholic Church hierarchy has been lobbying hard for the bill, which proposes a two-year jail sentence for doctors who perform abortions except when the mother's life is directly threatened.

In spite of yesterday's fudging resolution, the bill is still on the political agenda. Church support is crucial to the re-election chances of many deputies, especially in the countryside, and abortion is likely to be one of the main issues in those constituencies, which are being decided on a first past the post basis. Left-liberal deputies, headed by

Janusz Kuron, the former dissident, had been pressing for a national referendum on abortion, knowing that opinion polls showed a majority of people were against penal sanctions for abortion.

The Catholic Church denounced this idea, saying that moral issues could not be settled this way. Yesterday's proposal, by the Democratic Union, led by Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the former prime minister, was a compromise designed to keep the peace between the increasingly vociferous church and the increasingly uneasy secular state.

The law has become part of the church-state battlefield. The Church, once the unquestioned moral bastion against communism, now has a rather uncertain political role. But it has successfully lobbied to bring back religious lessons in state schools, is active in the police and the army (soldiers are marched to Mass) and is campaigning to make divorce more difficult and contraceptives more expensive.

With the Pope due to start his visit on June 1, the Church hierarchy feels politically confident. That is more than can be said for the lame-duck parliament which is facing dissolution in October. Senators who opposed the original draft of the abortion bill have been bombarded by hate mail, some of it orchestrated by parish priests.



Soviet union: Helen Sharman, poised to become the first Briton in space today, shaking hands at a press conference yesterday with Sergei Krikaliev, left, and Commander Anatoli Artchavski, the Soviet cosmonauts who will accompany her to the Mir space station

## Braced for royal time in space

From Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent, in Baikonur

A PHOTOGRAPH of the Queen, a butterfly brooch and a stick of lip moisturiser make history today when they are taken on an eight-day mission into space.

The Queen's portrait, taken shortly after her coronation, was given to Yuri Gagarin, the first person in space, while visiting her for tea in the early 1960s. Thirty years after his historic flight the picture is to accompany Helen Sharman, aged 27, a British food scientist, when she blasts off to the Mir space station from Baikonur in Soviet Central Asia with two cosmonauts.

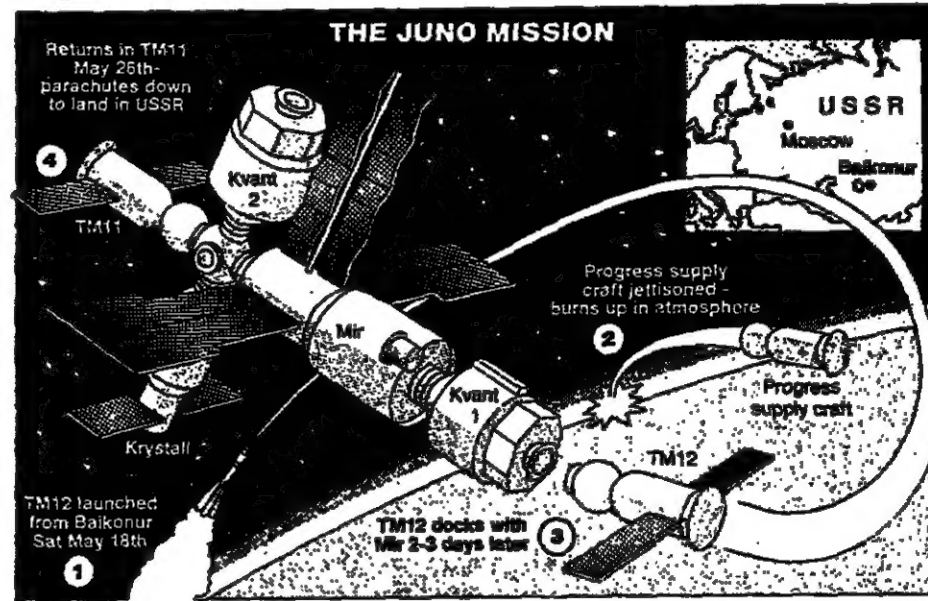
The brooch is a good luck charm from her father John, a Sheffield science teacher.

Soviet space officials yesterday formally confirmed Miss Sharman's place on the Juno mission. Miss Sharman, seated behind a glass quarantine screen, looked relaxed and smiled. Only a trace of the fractiousness which has marked previous public appearances was in evidence as she fielded a battery of questions.

The mission comes amid deep concern over the future of the Soviet space programme. Financial cutbacks and political decisions are being taken which may dash plans not only for the Buran space plane but all the programme, including schemes to replace the Mir space

station. Yesterday, during a tour of the Baikonur cosmodrome, officials showed off a Buran on its launch pad. Burans are smaller but similar to the American space shuttles. Colonel Valeri Solov'yev, deputy test director for the Buran programme, which has only flown one

space mission in 1988, said: "It is undergoing pre-flight checks and will fly automatically imminently. Unlike the Americans, we can launch our Burans in all weathers." Later another official said that Buran would not fly imminently but may fly this year, or later.



## Footnote in hall of fame

AT THE Baikonur museum, sandwiched between the capsules which lifted mice and Laika the dog into orbit, is a red guest book with a two-line entry dated May 14, 1991 (Nick Nuttall writes). The signature is Helen Sharman's and the message says: "Thank you for an interesting visit. I will make sure the key travels with us."

The key in question is a good luck replica of the one used to switch on the primitive ground control console that launched Yuri Gagarin into space in 1961. Around the museum the face of Sergei Korolyov, the father of the Soviet rocket programme and the man responsible for building Baikonur, is never far away.

The museum bears testimony to the heroes of the vigorous space nation. It also gives clues to life on the Mir space station, with tins of goose liver pâté on display and on the menu 250 miles above Earth.

## Gorbachev and Jiang clash on way ahead

From Mary Drievsky in Moscow

JIANG Zemin, the Chinese Communist party leader, left Moscow yesterday for two days in Leningrad after an official visit had produced few identifiable achievements and a discreet diplomatic slanging match with President Gorbachev on how the problems facing communism should be tackled.

The only document signed, and that at foreign minister level, was a treaty demarcating the eastern part of the 4,000-mile Sino-Soviet frontier which does not, however, solve all border questions.

Most Soviet commentators concentrated on the symbolism of the visit, tantamount to the resumption of party-to-party ties after the schism of the 1960s. But they tended to pass over that this was the first visit to Moscow by a Chinese party leader since Mao's in 1957. Their other favourite theme was the prospects for increased economic co-operation, a term which in Soviet usage increasingly means aid in the provision of food and consumer goods.

Mr Jiang's coded theme in his talks with Mr Gorbachev was "political stability", the concept in whose name the tanks moved into Tiananmen Square. Mr Jiang reportedly told Mr Gorbachev that "without stability there will be no reform and no possibility of development". What he in fact seemed to be advising was that the Soviet leader should be less squeamish about using tougher methods to solve his country's problems.

Mr Gorbachev carried his guest's argument by saying that what the Soviet Union needed was "civil consensus in the interests of all social groups and strata of the population."

## Moscow opposition group's office wrecked by blast

By Our Foreign Staff

AN explosion destroyed an office of the main Soviet opposition group Democratic Russia in Moscow and officials of the movement said yesterday that it was caused by a bomb. The spokesman for Democratic Russia, Yevgenii Proshchekin, said it was a miracle that no one was in the building because night meetings were often held.

The blast, late on Thursday night, tore a 12 ft gap in the front wall of the house, sending chunks of masonry crashing on to the pavement and breaking windows across the street. Democratic Russia, an umbrella group of radicals and liberals formed last year, supports Boris Yeltsin, the Russian Federation president and main political rival of President Gorbachev.

"This was the first (recent) terrorist act in Moscow," Leonid Bogdanov, a member of Democratic Russia's Coordinating Committee, said.

"I doubt it will be the last. It is difficult to say who did it, no one has claimed responsibility." No one was hurt.

The office, in a quiet street less than half a mile from the Kremlin, was used for fund-raising and storage. It was also used for collecting signatures for the election on June 12 for the new post of executive Russian president, the first direct vote for a top Soviet leader since the October revolution of 1917.

Mr Yeltsin is a leading candidate and contenders must collect 100,000 signatures by tomorrow or win support from a fifth of the delegates at next week's Congress of People's Deputies—the republic's supreme legislature—to stand on June 12. But Mr Bogdanov said all the signatures had been removed from the office, in Staromostovskiy Alley, before the explosion. "I took the last two boxes to the city council at 7.30," he

said. Signatures for Gavril Popov's re-election as mayor of Moscow on June 12 and petitions demanding nationalisation of Communist party property had also been stored in the room.

A young activist, Sasha Fonnyakin, was the only person in the building and he escaped through a window after the blast. "He should have been sitting in the room where the bomb went off, but he went out into the corridor and was at the other side of the building," Mr Bogdanov said.

● MOSCOW: The Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions, which claims to represent 60 million workers, yesterday rejected a ban on strikes imposed by President Gorbachev on key sectors of the economy.

Air traffic controllers have meanwhile called an illegal strike next Tuesday demanding better wages and conditions. (Reuters)

## High and mighty dine with Queen

From Peter Stothard, US Editor in Washington

SHE was tall, statuesque, bejewelled and had the head of a cori. The hostess of Washington's Georgetown district thought that the mannequin which greeted guests at Thursday's cori tea party might attract more majestic company too. But sadly the Queen had a full schedule and stayed away from the feast of scones and bones at the Four Seasons Hotel. She had to rest instead before another formal dinner for two-legged friends.

The Washington Post called the evening at the British embassy "as close to dinner en famille with the Queen of England as anyone could hope for". The 100-strong family included Jane Fonda and Brooke Astor, among those whose glamour has to come from their positions were White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and Senator George Mitchell.

## Soviet emigration bill fails again

From Our Own Correspondent in Moscow

THE deputy chairman of the Soviet parliament ran from the podium. The chairman could not decide whether to laugh or to cry. A certain Comrade Kryshkin, a plumber, leapt to a microphone to accuse his opponents of pressing voting buttons which did not belong to them.

These were the final knock-out minutes of yesterday afternoon in the Soviet parliament, when the assembled deputies failed yet again to approve the law that would give every Soviet citizen the right to enter and leave the country.

The proceedings could reasonably have been beamed direct to the White House to show President Bush and his administration what they are up against.

In trying to tie the granting of trade privileges to the passage of the Soviet emigration bill, the Americans have committed the Soviet leadership to passing a law whose

parliamentary support is not only slim, but distinctly volatile. In the bad old days, of course, there would have been no such problem.

The problem need not exist now, except for the unsatisfactory paradox of having a law that would enshrine a civil right enacted by presidential diktat. Yesterday's performance, however, will provide ammunition for those who argue that the Soviet Union is not quite ready for democracy.

On Monday, one chamber of parliament voted for the bill and the other failed to achieve the requisite majority.

Yesterday as deputies pressed their buttons and the figures appeared on screen the overall vote looked good.

The second chamber was home and dry. But the first chamber, which had voted comfortably in favour of the whole bill only three days before, was short of two votes.

## Yugoslav impasse unresolved

Belgrade — A meeting of Yugoslavia's eight-member collective presidency collapsed yesterday without electing a president or solving the problem that has paralysed the country's top leadership, presidency sources said. They said representatives of the republics of Slovenia, Croatia and Macedonia had walked out of the meeting.

The meeting was called to try to end an impasse that began on Wednesday when the republic of Serbia blocked the appointment of Stipe Mesic, a Croat, as president. Yugoslavia as a result has since had no president.

Franc Horvat resigned as the country's minister for foreign economic relations yesterday, citing personal reasons. (Reuters)

## Oil pledge

Brussels — Europe's oil industry has promised to reduce the environmental damage it causes. The Europa lobby of 34 oil companies agreed at its assembly here that companies should be more careful to avoid spills and accidental emissions, and in managing waste and conserving natural resources. (Reuters)

## Murder suspect

Moscow — Police detained a soldier suspected of murdering a butler to the American ambassador here earlier this month and are hunting for an accomplice. The body of Clement Padin, an Italian, was found in a flat owned by a lawyer who was also murdered. (Reuters)

## Church militant

Valguarnera — Father Agostino Agreale says he needs more than a prayer to protect him from criminals. Citing "security reasons", the pastor of the Church of St Francis in Valguarnera, central Sicily, has applied for a gun permit after burglaries at his church. (Reuters)



The firebomb radical: a Seoul student yesterday

SEOUL NOTEBOOK by Joanna Pitman

## Toothpaste rival for tear-gas tycoon

Opportunism has closely accompanied the birth pangs of democracy in South Korea. Han Young Ja, president of Samyang Chemical Company, purveyor of tear gas to the military, has become one of Korea's richest individuals. A tradition of annual anti-government rioting by dissidents and militant students has boosted sales of her company's premier product.

Last Wednesday, the English-language Korea Herald newspaper announced with breathtaking accuracy that 122,793 tear-gas shells have been fired to date this year. All those shells cost 3 billion won (\$2.4 million) and locals believe that most of them would have come from Mrs Han's storehouses. Many more have been purchased in preparation for

continuing violent protests expected later this month.

The paper noted that the figure is 34 per cent up on this time last year, that riot police fire an average of 937 shells a day and that on May 9 they let loose a total of 21,207 shells into crowds of students. In 1987, Mrs Han was listed as the highest individual taxpayer in the land, courtesy of enormous tear-gas sales to quell riots by millions of students and civilians during the nationwide demonstrations that year. The demand for teargas has not dropped, but an embarrassed Mrs Han has managed to drop out of most of the public tax registers.

Yonsei university in western Seoul has just seen another silent spring go

by. The core of the student anti-government movement, Yonsei's campus has been repeatedly bombarded with quantities of tear gas for years.

Seoul's population of birds and bees long ago became wise to the dangers of winging over the area, and bird song is now consistent on the sprawling campus and the showers of gas have reduced vegetation to a scrubby grey brush. If nothing else, this allows Yonsei to blend nicely with the monotonous grey of the rest of the city. For if you like concrete, you'll love Seoul.

Residents from the suburbs around Yonsei are also looking a little haggard after this year's gassy

confrontations. Approaching the stop for the university on the underground, the traveller is suddenly surrounded by a carriage convulsed in floods of tears, the effect of residual wafts of gas. The tear gas penetrates the subway at the same spot, and locals have learnt to take precautions. One old lady began handing around a tube of toothpaste which was solemnly passed along the carriage by weeping commuters. Each one gratefully squeezed out a dab as it went by and smeared it under their eyes and nose to counteract the effects. Students preparing for riots also smear their faces with toothpaste. A toothpaste tycoon may be in the making to rival Mrs Han.

هكذا من الأصل





It's your most valuable asset.  
Are you doing enough to protect it?



Clifford Longley

## Doubters with a difference

Books by two radical bishops are just out: the American leaves Durham far behind

Anglicanism's two most notoriously liberal bishops are David Jenkins, of Durham, and John Spong, of Newark, New Jersey. They share doctrinal doubts, occupying one end of a theological spectrum that stretches right across to the most grumpy diehard (who shall be nameless), whom they delight in shocking.

When grumpy diehards complain that it is permissible "these days" for Anglicans to believe anything at all or absolutely nothing, it is these two they have in mind. Bishop Spong, who makes a practice of ordaining homosexuals and lesbians (he is an ardent ordainer of women priests), has no English equivalent, but essentially the two stand together, knocking over piles of sacred certainties to remake Christianity more to their liking.

So it is strange that they do not seem to know each other, scarcely even of each other. Each has a book in this spring's publishing lists defending Anglican liberalism; neither cites the other in his index.

Spong, say Anglican wits, makes Jenkins look like a conservative. Jenkins, they can now add, makes Spong look like an intellectual. Despite much assistance from his daughter Rebecca, who wrote the draft, Bishop Jenkins' *Free to Believe* (BBC) is a rather bad book that can only damage his reputation; Bishop Spong's *Rescuing the Bible* (Collins) is an excellent one that should improve his.

What distinguishes them, aside from the former being personal musings and the latter a job of work, is the attitude they take towards those with whom they do not agree. Bishop Spong has real sympathy for non-liberals, and his book is a bridge-builder. "I have no desire to make uncomfortable anyone's fragile life," he writes. Bishop Jenkins sees it as his duty to be a disturber. "Although I can understand that some people may have been distressed... I do not think that anyone who has a living faith, a praying and serving faith, could be put off by one person." What is disturbing about this is its implicit judgment on anyone who has been so distressed: their faith is flawed.

The two bishops represent the sensitive and the insensitive faces of church liberalism. It is not hard to decide which makes his case the more attractive. Throughout the controversies that have surrounded Bishop Jenkins since his appointment to Durham in 1984, the one piece of advice he has received consistently from friend and foe is that he should show more respect for the feelings of those he disagrees with. The total effect of his refusing to listen to this advice has been to set back the liberal cause and enhance that of the conservatives. Indeed it is they who now seem to carry the torch of tolerance.

Countless of the Christian faithful, throughout the ages and today,

have found it possible (and believed necessary) to accept in broad outline the doctrines of the Virgin Birth and the Resurrection. The difficulty that Bishop Spong squarely addresses focuses on the miraculous element in each.

The Bishop of Durham's objections are far more radical. In his book he repeats, as bluntly as when he first stated it in 1986, his reason for wanting to tear down the common way of believing in these two doctrines. It is not a textual objection, but a moral one.

"This God Christians call the God of Love is prepared to work knock-down physical miracles in order to let a select number of people into the secret of his Incarnation and Resurrection, but He is not prepared to use those same methods in order to deliver victims from Nazi death camps, to prevent Hiroshima, or to overcome famine. If such perceptions are correct then such a god must be a cultic idol. A cultic idol is an imagined god who is supposed solely to benefit the people who believe in him... A distorted picture, furthermore, drawn by those who would be worshippers who have gone dangerously and sadly astray. Such a God would not be worth believing in." (So most members of the Church of England are idol-worshippers?)

What matters principally here is not Bishop Jenkins's opinion but his tone. The German theologian Johann Baptist Metz once declared: "It is forbidden to do theology with one's back turned to Auschwitz," which says what needs saying in 12 words, and in 12 words only.

The Bishop of Durham (or his ghost-writer daughter) may lack this succinct delicacy, but could just as well have made the point with a series of questions: "How is it that...?" He talks about "wrestling" with faith, but his preferred form of war is the nuclear strike.

Theologians with their backs turned to Auschwitz have a habit of referring to it nonetheless — as a clincher in debates on other matters. In view of the history of anti-Semitism, there is a golden rule, as an act of respect and penitence: never make use of the Holocaust just for the sake of argument. To bring it into a discussion as one more "for instance", as the bishop does, is another way of turning one's back.

Bishop Jenkins thinks he has found a short-cut through one of the deepest mysteries of faith: how suffering can be reconciled with the existence of a benevolent God. He was not the first to notice that there is an issue here, though he writes as if he were. Immense is the literature and profound the poetry on this anguished theme. Writing about the Suffering Servant as a prefigurement of Christ, Bishop Spong has made a valuable addition to that literature. So far, the Bishop of Durham has not.



Spong (top) is sensitive; Jenkins likes to disturb

The Monmouth by-election signified a success just short of unqualified triumph for Labour, a disappointment rather than disaster for the Conservatives and modest satisfaction for the unelected Liberal Democrats. The 12.6% swing that delivered Monmouth to Labour did not match mid-Staffordshire (21.4%), but was on a par with Vale of Glamorgan (12.3%) and one of the sharpest since 1979.

Monmouth was true to by-election form in penalising the government and flattering the centre. The "protest" swing from Conservative to Liberal Democrat allowed Labour to win.

That by-elections exist to register an anti-government protest does not make them insignificant political pointers, as *The Times* suggested this week. In the past 30 years that anti-government vote has paralleled the government's fluctuating fortunes in the national polls, following a honeymoon-depression-recovery cycle over the course of a full parliament. And the stronger the recovery in the fourth and fifth years, especially the six months before the election, the better the government's general election performance.

## Tories beware as Labour wins middle-class votes

By-elections do matter. Ivor Crewe disagrees with *The Times*

In the 1955-9 and 1979-83 parliaments, the fall-off in Tory support eased by the fourth year and the Conservatives were re-elected. In the 1959-64 parliament, the fall-off deteriorated in year four, when the Macmillan government was beset by the Profumo scandal, de Gaulle's Common Market veto and the leadership succession. It recovered in the final six months under Sir Alec Douglas-Home's prime ministership, but by not quite enough to prevent a narrow defeat. In the shortened parliament from 1970 to February 1974, heavy Tory losses continued right up to the election, and the government lost.

An iron law of by-elections? No. A useful rule of thumb? Yes. The 13.5% drop in the Conservative vote at Monmouth needs to be

interpreted in this context. By comparison with Ribbles Valley (-22.4%), Eastbourne (-19%) and mid-Staffordshire (-18.3%) it was modest, the third smallest in a Conservative seat this parliament. It hints — no more — at the lifting of the poll tax albatross and the beginning of a government recovery. But it is still high compared with the same stage of earlier post-war Tory governments. It suggests, as do the polls and common sense, that Conservative prospects are tough and go, and the party is desperately short of time.

In the Eastbourne and Ribbles Valley by-elections, anti-Conservatives lined up behind the Liberal Democrat; in Monmouth, like mid-Staffordshire, the majority plumped for Labour. That the local mixture of candidates, party organisation and constituency

polls which determines this collective choice is unfathomable does not make it insignificant.

Since three-party contests became the norm, the Labour by-election vote has usually fallen in Conservative seats. The centre has mopped up not only the anti-government vote but some tactical and dissatisfied Labour voters as well. In the 1979-83 parliament, the Labour vote rose in only one Conservative seat: Southend East (where the Liberal vote rose by more). In 1983-7 it rose more frequently (from a much lower base) but only twice on a significant scale, in Brecon and Radnor (where, again, the Liberal did better still) and in Fulham.

Monmouth was the third Conservative seat in this parliament to register a double-figure rise in Labour's share of the vote.

Charles Bremner on the tragedy and low comedy still besetting America's once royal family

## Fall of the house of Kennedy



The Kennedys in 1934. Standing (left to right): Joe (killed in the second world war), Patricia, Rosemary, Eunice. Seated: Kathleen (killed in plane crash, 1946), Robert (assassinated, 1968), Rose Kennedy, John (assassinated, 1963), Joseph Kennedy (holding Edward), Jean

On the other side, however, the Kennedy men have clearly brought trouble on themselves through their love of risk-taking. JFK's brinkmanship in the 1962 Cuban missile crisis was potentially the most disastrous case, but the most common cases involve women. The trait, as exposed in all the debunking books of recent years, existed long before the assassinations. In his student days in the 1950s, the senator earned the name Cadillac Eddie for his wild driving and party-going.

The exploits of Joseph Kennedy Senior, son of a Boston saloon-keeper, were the stuff of pre-war legend. When not accumulating wealth in sometimes questionable fields such as liquor, or spending it in politics, he earned a name as a

Don Juan while Rose nurtured the future dynasty.

Among Irish Joe's mistresses was the film star Gloria Swanson, who in her memoirs likened his love-making to that of a "roped horse, rough, arduous, racing to be free". Her description of their first sexual encounter reads like the account the Palm Beach woman gave to police, prompting the charge of sexual battery. The old man apparently passed on to his boys his attitude towards women along with their sense of duty and ambition.

America's current censoriousness seems a whiff of extra-marital dalliance enough to kill a career. If this standard had been applied in the campaign of 1960, it is a fair bet that John Fitzgerald

Kennedy would never have made it to the White House. The press turned a blind eye to his flagrant infidelities, now luridly detailed in memoirs and biographies. Among his escapades, he is said to have taken a call-girl to Lincoln's bed and indulged in flings with the mistress of a Mafia boss, as well as Marilyn Monroe and Jayne Mansfield. The way he allegedly shed Monroe, by passing her on to brother Robert, is blamed by some who knew her for contributing to her depression and suicide.

The late president's sexual exploits have coloured the revised view of his tenure being taken by the political classes. It has become fashionable to see JFK more as the "superman of the supermarket" (as Norman Mailer once described

him), as a masterful image-maker and unscrupulous leader who bungled foreign policy with his gambling. According to the revisers, he risked nuclear war with his ultimatum to Moscow over the missiles, misjudged Fidel Castro's power with his futile invasion of the Bay of Pigs, and set the scene for the Vietnam quagmire. Although JFK is still seen by the public as the prince of the thousand days, the eloquent leader who pledged America to "pay any price, bear any burden" for its cause, in the view of the Kennedys' many bitter enemies, the sexual shenanigans were a symptom of a general arrogance and high-handedness.

For all the recitade of most of Joseph and Rose's 28 surviving grandchildren, the reckless spirit is said to live on among them. Joseph P. Robert's son, a congressman and the most successful of the third generation, has had his share of car crashes, fist-fights and brushes with the law.

But the other most visible grandson, John F. Kennedy junior, the late president's son, has so far been free from scandal, despite dogged attempts by the media to dig up a dark side to "the sexiest man alive", as *People* magazine anointed him three years ago. The nearest this Manhattan prosecutor has come to titillating behaviour was an evening out with Madonna in New York this month.

While the myths of JFK and RFK have been left largely intact, Edward has suffered the scrutiny of a country greedy for evidence that something is amiss in the Kennedy soul. The memory of JFK has been separated from the mania which sent hundreds of reporters and swarms of television vans to the seashore in Palm Beach at Easter. Their legend reduced by gossip, scandal and misfortune, the clan is no longer a royal family, as the foreign press still likes to call it, but rather a cast of handsome and rich celebrities condemned to have their every indiscretion dissected and offered to a voracious public.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

I have been following the Edwina Currie libel case with intense interest. You see I have contemplated two damages claims of my own.

The first is straightforward. It happened years ago. I was working late at London Weekend Television one Saturday evening. The next morning's *News of the World* had just been delivered. "Top Liberal MP dragged drunk from a brothel where he paid £50 a time for sex and spanking sessions," I giggled. Then my eye slipped down to a photograph at the foot of the page. Where had I seen that face before? Ah, yes. It was me.

What? Me? I felt my blood run cold. At first I thought it was something to do with my having been an MP, but I couldn't recall, and don't much relish, spanking or being spanked by anyone, least of all a Liberal... But, no, this was not about spanking or liberalism. It was a separate article, about me.

"TV's glamour-boy presenter... revealed last night the bachelor..." As soon as you see the word "bachelor", of course, you know what it's all about. What was implied was deeply unsurprising and would not (to my way of thinking) have been defamatory even if an invention, which it wasn't. So, no problems there.

The article went on to remind us ("meanwhile") what had been said about the late Russell Harty, and ("in the wake of") that concluded with a jolly little resume of Harvey Proctor's career, doing us, so to speak, in a job lot. These last two, the article

accused of involvement with rent boys, but (though this has not been a pursuit of mine) I have no objection to being bracketed with Messrs Harty and Proctor, as they were both friends. So, no problems there, either.

No. The piece was a shocking libel, but there was nothing in the libel law. The libel was in the insinuation that I would ever give an interview to the *News of the World*.

The interview was said to have occurred "last night". That was problematical as it was "last night" that I was reading it, already, as it were. I actually recognised in it the gist of a very wide-ranging talk I had had with a feature writer some time previously. As a fellow journalist I was pleased for him that he had managed to sell a bit of it to someone.

But to have it thought that I had spoken directly to a Sunday tabloid... oh, the shame of it! What would my friends think? Already I sensed my reputation sinking in the eyes of reasonable men like Harvey Proctor. It would have shocked him to hear I was into that sort of thing. Russell would probably never speak to me again.

I never did sue. It would only have made things worse. As matters stood, the only people who believed I spoke to the *News of the World* were readers of the *News of the World*. Were I to promote the affair to the status of a court case, readers of *The Times* would hear the libel too. So I dropped the idea of suing. Nor have I found a way of

pursuing my second civil action. Indeed lawyers have told me that there is no way of doing so in English law. My case (which would be for damages) is against every successful plaintiff in a libel action. Mrs Currie is only the most recent example.

And the complaint? It is a subtle one. Each time an individual sues successfully, all those others who are too poor to sue for libels against themselves face a small addition to the potency of the damage they have suffered. This is because successful suits raise our presumption that any citizen can redress damaging lies about himself by recourse to law. For most people, in most circumstances, that has never been true. But if it is believed to be true, then those who fail to sue are assumed, from the absence of any writ, to be guilty of whatever it is that has been published about them.

There is a healthier presumption, which is that you cannot believe what you read in newspapers. The *Sunday Sport* does a service to the nation by spreading it. The flickering existence, on the residual and prohibitively expensive fringes of English law, of a possible remedy for defamation encourages the notion that newspapers dare not lie.

But they do. To suggest otherwise damages those about whom lies have been printed, but who cannot afford to sue.

The law of defamation should be dropped entirely or made available to all. Stay your hands, MPs, or give your constituents, all 56 million of them, their day in court.

## Ambition not yet run out

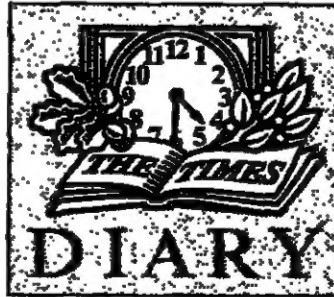
Viv Richards is planning a new career as minister for sport and tourism in his native Antigua after this summer's tour of England. The West Indian captain confided his ambition to Robert Atkins, Britain's sports minister, at a Savoy lunch for the British Sportsman's Club last week.

Atkins was flattered to be asked for advice, but resisted the temptation to seek a little free coaching on his cover drive in return. "We were talking about Wes Hall, who is minister for sport and tourism in Barbados, when Richards said 'When I retire that's something I want to do.' He is going to play some club cricket, but plans to take up politics."

Richards would make a successful minister. Atkins thinks. "He possesses that elusive ability of appearing to be in total command, even under the most adverse conditions." Atkins also offered Richards a piece of advice, attributed to W.G. Grace, which John Major might find useful after the Monmouth by-election: "There is no such thing as a crisis until the next ball."

Richards has never been noted as a diplomat, and his recent public slanging-match with the Australian manager Bobby Simpson was the latest in a long line of controversial incidents off the field. On the other hand, this may stand him in good stead, given the hothead of alleged corruption and political intrigue that is Antiguan politics.

Yesterday, sounding every bit as discreet as the most experienced practitioner of the political art, Richards said from the changing rooms at Worcester: "I do not want to discuss my political ambitions just yet. The time will



come. At the moment I just want to concentrate on the cricket." He then took the field to see Ian Botham savage his bowlers for a spectacular 161. What job might John Major offer the England all-rounder in a future cabinet?

● Roy Hattersley, a lifelong Sheffield Wednesday fan, warned sports journalists at the Footballer of the Year dinner on Thursday to be on their guard against MPs who suddenly discover a passion for sport for electoral reasons. To detect the true fan, he suggested, ask them two questions: "Who won the FA Cup in 1935?" and "Which side was runner-up to the failed Tottenham double-winning side of the 1950s?" The answer in both cases is, of course, Sheffield Wednesday. Except, as any Wembley-bound Spurs fan would tell him, Danny Blanchflower's team brought off the double not in the Fifties, but in 1961.

### Major's motor

So there is a back-seat driver behind John Major after all. The secret came out at a Number Ten reception for 140 secretaries and researchers to MPs of all parties on Thursday night when the prime minister unveiled the key to his success. The name Barbara Wallis is almost unknown even in senior Tory circles, but as Major's secretary since 1979 she is the only member of the Downing

Street staff to have been with him throughout his parliamentary career.

"Barbara is the real person running the country," said the man who is ostensibly her boss. "She is the real power behind the throne." As his embarrassed secretary looked on, Major revealed that Wallis, who had previously worked for other Tory MPs, had pounced on him on his first day as an MP. "I was lost in the members' lobby," he recalled. "Barbara walked up to me and said, 'I'm working for you.' Who was a raw new boy to disagree?"

### Sentries, go!

They're changing the guard at Haughey's palace, goes the Irish version of the A.A. Milne nursery rhyme. The Taoiseach recently ordered his armed security police bodyguards out of the grounds of his Killybegs home after they publicly complained



about their accommodation. They were confined to a rat-infested hut with a leaky roof, they told astonished colleagues at the annual conference of the Garda Síochána, during particularly heavy rain, they had to seek refuge in the greenhouse.

So outraged was Haughey that before the next shower he had ordered the men off, saying he would rely in future on uniformed

police. Apologies have been offered all round, and the guards are about to resume their round-the-clock vigil. The rats, presumably, remain undisturbed.

● The banquet in President Bush's honour given by the *Queen at the British Embassy* on Thursday night featured a special Gulf war tribute: a bagpipe solo entitled Desert Storm played by the composer, Pipe-Sgt Jim Motherwell of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.

### Backing Bozzie

The 200th anniversary this week of the publication of James Boswell's *Life of Johnson* sees the launch of a campaign to find space for a monument to the biographer beside the tomb of his subject in Poets' Corner at Westminster Abbey.

"A very clubbable man" was Dr Johnson's description of Boswell, and he would surely approve of the campaign launched by Sheriff Neil Gow of the Auchinleck Boswell Society to admit Bozzie to one of the most exclusive literary clubs of all. Gow is hoping for success before the bicentenary of Boswell's death, in 1995, and has already had discussions with the Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev Michael Mayne. But, he admits, there is strong competition, with about ten candidates under consideration.

"We hope that a strong case can be made for Boswell and that his somewhat lecherous reputation will not count against him," says Gow. "It is extremely difficult to find a place of honour there." Indeed, it is. As far back as 1791, when friends proposed to erect a monument to Dr Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds was complaining that "Westminster is already... stuffed with statuary". In the end, while the bones stayed in the Abbey, the monument was erected in St Paul's.

هكذا من الأصل





## THE PHANTOM CAMPAIGN

A shrewd leader watches the street fighting as well as the war. If the Conservatives want to win a new term of office, John Major must put an end to the present phoney election campaign. He and his colleagues were clearly unprepared for Labour's extraordinary spring offensive. Mr Major should either plan for an election this autumn or firmly declare for next year. The first option is better for him, since it leaves the second open. The first would also be good for the economy. For once, the dictates of politics and economics run side by side.

Planning for an autumn election means cutting interest rates, to end the devastating slide of good companies into bankruptcy. Even if this were done, autumn might be too soon to see much recovery, but the result of such a policy would be an upturn in business and consumer confidence and a reversal of the fall in Britain's industrial investment. As in 1982-3, the unpleasant medicine would be seen to be working. Better times would be on the horizon.

An autumn deadline would also enable ministers to pace themselves over the summer. The electoral advantage which the Conservative party seized so dramatically last November by replacing Margaret Thatcher with Mr Major is diminishing. Mr Major's Gulf war success and his removal of the poll tax are feathers in his cap, but as they drift into the past the government has to find ever more successes and avoid ever more accidents.

In political accident has been more abundant than that which now surrounds the introduction of trust hospitals. The health service reforms initiated five years ago are sordid in principle. They will improve efficiency and consumer responsiveness in a way that is not to be popular. Internal markets allow funds to follow demand, to give value for money. The process of change is painful, but the only alternative is for funds to go to wherever professional pressure is most intense (such as to central London). This is unfair and inefficient.

Here he in office Labour's Robin Cook would doubtless be frantic to cut health

costs, but he is not. In opposition the Labour party can choose to ignore the unfairness and inefficiency in the health service — Britain's adversarial politics offers an opposition "equal time to be irresponsible". But that Labour should tell whoppers in its by-election publicity at Monmouth should hardly shock the Tories, as it seemed to do yesterday. They have often done the same. This does, however, make reform harder, the more so when it has been long delayed.

The Conservatives have also left themselves ideologically exposed. In both schools and health, the concept of greater efficiency has been overtaken by the more controversial one of an "opted out" public sector. Nothing causes more anxiety in the mind of the moderately poor than the fear of a two-tier welfare state. Throughout the postwar era, Conservatives rigorously upheld the perceived quality of NHS care. Private care grew but not so as to undermine the universality of the NHS. Hospital opting out does not undermine universality, but the very phrase offers a hostage to an opportunistic opposition.

School opting out does undermine universality. The two-tier secondary school system perpetuated (against its principles) by the 1944 Education Act was part of the undoing of 1960s Toryism. Upwardly mobile voters found their children excluded from grammar schools by 11-plus selection and turned to Labour's comprehensive school panacea. As a forceful pamphlet next week from the Institute for Public Policy Research makes plain, opting out may mean some parents choosing schools, but for most it means schools choosing parents. Such a system has not in the past proved popular.

The cabinet has the rest of the summer to resolve these and other dilemmas. Its troubles may be put down to "poor presentation", but half of politics is presentation. Britain's flexible election date is supposed to give a government the advantage: arguments can be marshalled, battles stage-managed, Opposition forced on the defensive. But to use this advantage, government supporters need to know what they are fighting about, and when.

## TESTING THE CHEMISTRY

Lord Hanson, now 69, has made no secret of his desire to make one last grandiose financial gesture before he retires. Directors of undervalued companies, watching their share prices slip along with their profits, have been dreading the feel of his hot breath on their necks. Now a victim seems to have been picked out. But if Hanson does bid for ICI the battle will be not just between the old industrial establishment and the new. Governments and supranational regulators will be drawn in, and rightly so.

If shareholders were left to decide on their own, ICI would have to rely on an almost unimaginable fund of good will to stay independent. In the past 25 years, ICI's shares have underperformed the stock market by half, while Hanson's shares have outperformed it by 3,000 per cent. It is because Hanson's strategy has so benefited its shareholders that regulators have a duty to examine whether that gain has been at the expense of customers in markets in which Hanson's subsidiaries are dominant.

ICI is Britain's biggest manufacturer and the world's fourth largest chemical company. It is one of the few world-class companies left in Britain. Hanson, with an even larger stock market valuation than ICI, makes roughly half its money in America. The international ramifications of a takeover would be immense. Such a bid passes all the size thresholds set down in the European Commission's new competition policy. The commissioner in charge, Sir Leon Brittan, is unlikely to pass up the chance to examine its suitability, so the matter will be taken out of the British government's hands.

How would a merger of the two companies affect competition in Europe? Only in the manufacture of titanium dioxide do the companies' activities overlap. But where one company's dominant position in a market is to be transferred to another, Sir

Leon is right to ask whether the new owner is likely to exploit that position at the expense of the consumer.

The Commission should also consider whether research and development would suffer under new management. Innovation is itself a spur to competition: it is what makes markets develop and allows new entrants. Last year, ICI spent £679 million on research and development. Martin Taylor, Hanson's vice-chairman, recently wrote to *The Times* to dispute the allegation that his company did not like R. & D. On the contrary, he said, Hanson spent £34 million on research last year. Admittedly, Hanson's activities are mainly in "mature" sectors. But could a company that has made its profit out of low-tech manufacture with little investment cope with spending 20 times more than it currently does on research?

ICI would no doubt claim that Hanson would break it up and sell off the pieces, and that it has to stay large to compete internationally. That would be special pleading. The company is involved in disparate sectors. There is no particular synergy between pharmaceuticals, paints and Perspex that requires all to be under the same corporate roof. ICI has already admitted that it wants to narrow its range. Hanson would probably narrow it faster.

Hanson could turn out to be a better manager than ICI has been. In the first few years, Hanson would almost certainly squeeze more profit out of the existing businesses. But its expertise lies in improving the short-term profitability of companies making basic manufactured goods, by tight controls on capital spending. Whether that would be in the long-term interests of Europe's consumers is debatable. The case must be tested outside the stock market and outside the confines of one national economy. Conducting such arguments is a proper function of a supranational regulator.

## THE OTHER CUP FINAL

The prime minister will watch the FA Cup Final at Wembley this afternoon and may reflect that, in seven years' time, he could attend a World Cup Final there. England and France are joint favourites to stage the 1998 competition, which last summer attracted a world-wide television audience of 31 billion. England's chances largely depend on building and rebuilding enough stadiums to satisfy the world governing body, Fifa.

Britain's sporting institutions complain of insufficient public money to bring the World Cup and the Olympic Games to Britain. This argument now has less force. When he was Chancellor, Mr Major cut the betting tax on the football pools, releasing about £100 million over five years to help implement Lord Justice Taylor's report after the Hillsborough disaster. In the last Budget, a new foundation was announced to help finance sport and the arts, again through the agency of the pools. It should raise at least £60 million a year, most of it for sport.

These are riches of which sport has scarcely dreamed. Previously the government's only direct payment to sport was an annual grant, this year of £48 million, to the Sports Council. But little of the new money will go towards attracting global competitions, despite their associated tourist revenue, the additional facilities and the inspiration to young sportsmen and women. There is no national strategy. Money is being distributed by many different organisations

which do not have the scope or power to use the money for the most important projects. Almost all the money for football is likely to be spent on existing grounds. These are often badly sited as community sports centres, and cannot stage international competitions. More than two years since Hillsborough, there is still no plan for a big new stadium. Many clubs wish to move to new premises but are stopped by planners, who do not see helping the sporting life of the nation as their business.

Only the government can give planning pre-eminence to sport. Robert Atkins, the sports minister, is shortly to publish a review. While he should not interfere with the administration of individual sports and their governing bodies, he should accept greater responsibility for allocating money, especially for stadiums of national importance. There is no other way in which Britain is ever likely to stage the World Cup or the Olympics.

Football in England is at last looking towards a brighter future: attendances at English League matches are up for the fifth successive season, and Manchester United's win in the European Cup Winners' Cup on Wednesday was a triumphant return to European club competition. Mr Major should spend half-time today thinking about Wembley 1998, and what he could do to make it happen.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Entrance fee for upkeep of St Paul's

From Miss Alison Bailey

Sir, The proposed £2 entrance fee to St Paul's Cathedral (report, May 15) will be like an amputation of the life of the City. It will deprive many worshippers and those on a low income of the genuine spiritual uplift that Wren's majestic great dome and nave offer during a busy day in a noisy city centre. It is unfortunate that Eversong, which promises to be free, starts too early for City workers to attend.

"Money-changing" is not new to the site of St Paul's. In the sixteenth century, Bishop Pilkington wrote of the corrupt practices of the previous cathedral: "The south side for... usury, the north side for... money, and the horse-fair in the middle for all kinds of bargains..."

Lawyers touted for business in the aisles, the nave was a vegetable market and the tombs served as a shop counter. The preaching, however, went on in the open air at St Paul's Cross (towards Chancery Lane) and the horse-fair in the middle for all kinds of bargains...

Two pounds is a prohibitive charge for all except wealthy sight-seers. Surely the government bears some responsibility for the repair and upkeep of one of the country's most famous and impressive landmarks.

Yours faithfully,  
ALISON BAILEY,  
68 Chelsea Gardens,  
Chelsea Bridge Road, SW1.  
May 15.

From Mrs Joan Bosonnet

Sir, St Paul's Cathedral should charge for entry; it has the feeling of a museum. It did not convey any church feeling when I went there to say a prayer during the first hours of the Gulf war. Could someone not have roped two rows off, put a candle and a bible there, and made a special place for special prayers?

I do not go to church very often, but I (and a bag of gentians and a tourist) went on that day to visit "head office" but sadly "reception" was closed.

Yours faithfully,  
JOAN BOSONNET,  
7 Oakcroft Close,  
West Byfleet, Surrey.  
May 15.

From Mr C. M. A. Colquhoun

Sir, It is ironic that admission charges were levied at St Paul's up until the time of the Great Exhibition and were abolished only for fear lest the multitude of Victorian tourists would forgo a visit because of the cost involved.

The introduction of an admission charge will significantly affect the number of visitors. School visits (already savaged by the Education

Reform Act) will become an exception rather than a norm. St Paul's stands out as one of the jewels in the crown of Britain's ecclesiastical heritage and should be available for all to see.

There are alternatives to admission charges. Westminster Abbey increases its sales of postcards and transparencies by restricting the taking of photographs; Salisbury, as was pointed out in your report, successfully extracts a turnover of tributes. Wells has turned its cloisters into an excellent shopping precinct; Coventry encourages tourists to make use of its magnificent visitor centre.

Surely Messrs Coopers and Lybrand, with their expertise in tourism development, could be more imaginative in their recommendations.

Yours faithfully,  
C. M. A. COLQUHOUN,  
21 Northcote Road,  
Twickenham, Middlesex.  
May 15.

From the Reverend Christopher Fenton

Sir, I think that Lord Kennet has made a mistake if he has resigned from the court of advisors to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral for the reason you report the presence of "money-changers" in the house of God. He makes the common mistake that it is somehow wrong to mix up money with religious practice and life (including worship).

The money changers of the Temple in Jesus's day were in fact providing a necessary service for worshippers, changing the profane currency of the Roman Empire (with its heathen embellishments) into the Tyrian coin which was considered fit coinage in which to offer to God the obligatory half-shekel. (It was, of course, the fact that they cheated in taking a commission greater than that authorised that led to our Lord overturning their tables and evicting them from his Father's house.)

It would seem, then, that the congregations of Ely and St Paul's cathedrals are indeed (to use the Dean of St Paul's delightful description) *bona fide* worshippers — and the rest of us spiritual free-loaders. When the Church becomes sufficiently sure of its message and mission to put a proper price-tag on its services, then perhaps we will hear less about its spurious poverty and experience more of its spiritual riches.

Meanwhile, why not one rate for the *bona fide* worshippers and a quite different charge for godfathers? Yours truly,  
CHRISTOPHER FENTON,  
Under Down,  
Lechlery, Herefordshire.  
May 15.

### Making a mark

From Dr W. A. Munford

Sir, The Royal Society of Arts was certainly responsible for erecting the first blue plaques (report, May 10) but did it "invent" them in 1867 as stated? I think not.

The credit should surely go to William Ewart (1798-1869), the penal reformer and parliamentary pioneer of public libraries, who seems to have been the first to suggest — in the House of Commons in 1863 — the erection of such plaques on London houses.

Yours etc.,  
W. A. MUNFORD,  
11 Manor Court, Pinehurst,  
Grange Road, Cambridge.  
May 12.

### Writing on the wall

From Mr Hugh Colver

Sir, I see (Daily, May 11) that you have had a mole tracing changes in the colour of Ministry of Defence loo paper over the years. The "washed-out bluish grey" of the current paper represents but a small manifestation in a "roll call" of environment-conscious initiatives which have led to the very wide use of recycled and eco-friendly paper for all purposes.

So when you ask, "What can it all mean?" the answer is that the paper is now grey because it is green.

Yours etc.,  
HUGH COLVER (Chief of Public Relations),  
Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building, Whitehall, SW1.  
May 15.

### Promoting tobacco

From Mr Nigel Smith

Sir, Mr Frank Rogers, chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association (May 15), asserts that "no advantage will be gained by anyone as a result of attributing the persistence of the habit (smoking) to advertising". He also claims that "in many countries permitting tobacco advertising, cigarette consumption has decreased".

Both these statements confuse the issue. The reality is that two major factors which affect levels of smoking are the price of tobacco and advertising.

A detailed report, *Smoke Free Europe in the Year 2000?* by Professor Nick Bosanquet and Andrew Trig, which we released yesterday, clearly shows that there is a definitive link between the price of cigarettes and their consumption.

In 1983, the United States doubled their tax on tobacco and saw an immediate fall in per capita consumption of 12 per cent. A comprehensive study by the New Zealand Toxic Substances Board

conducted in 1989 demonstrated that the greater the restrictions on tobacco advertising, the greater the decrease in smoking, particularly among children. That study covered 33 countries and can be considered far more authoritative than the figures Mr Rogers produces with no stated source.

Tobacco advertising, by its very existence, inherently contributes to creating the image of smoking as an acceptable and normal activity in society. In particular, it is the influence such advertising has on children from a very young age which most concerns the Health Education Authority and others in the health field. We wish to see a total ban on all tobacco advertising including promotions and sponsorship as part of an overall policy to reduce tobacco consumption and thus reduce the future toll of smoking-attributable premature deaths.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

### Limiting population in Third World

From the Director General of the International Agricultural Training Programme

Sir, Your report headlined "Send condoms not cash" (May 10) accurately identifies a crucial factor in Third World development. Clearly measures to halt such population explosions as currently exist in the Indian sub-continent should figure in all aid-funded programmes.

However, Sir Nicholas Fairbairn's rhetorical edict, as reported, is an over-simplistic solution to a complex issue. The problem is not due merely to the non-availability of birth-control devices. Age-old customs and traditions, apart from ignorance, in most developing countries have created a socio-economic matrix which encourages large family units.

More children mean more potential wage-earners for the family budget. More children mean better provisions for care for the parents in their old age. More children are still seen as a necessity to counteract traditionally high infant mortality, even where modern medicine has produced a reduction.

Increasingly, demographic studies indicate a distinct correlation between increased income levels and restraint in population growth. The higher the average wage level, the lower the birth rate.

Famine relief calls for immediate action. Equally important, the underlying causes of acute food shortages and over-population have to be addressed as part of a longer-term strategy. Better education and skills training are essential features. The validity of the "fish and fishing rod" maxim has been recognised in principle for long enough in matters of development.

In practice, however, there is an increasing need for good practical training in all essential skills leading to self-help. Primary production in agriculture heads the list which includes many basic income-generating activities leading to self-sufficiency. The "more robust" approach to diplomacy and aid advocated in your leading article (May 10) has to include this aspect.

World population control can realistically be expected in the long term, but only on a basis of cooperation rather than enforcement. Let us avoid the temptation of introducing a popular but misguided anodyne of "condoms not

cash" (plus TV appeals?) as being an easy solution for all Third World problems.

Yours faithfully,  
BASIL N. FOX,  
Director General,  
The International Agricultural Training Programme,  
London House,  
26-40 Kensington High Street, W8.

From Dr Malcolm Potts

Sir, Perhaps Bangladesh is ahead of Sir Nicholas Fairbairn: between 1975 and 1989 the average number of children born to women of Bangladesh fell from seven to 4.9.

Judith Ennew writes (May 11): "Population growth rates will only slow down when overall living conditions and education improve". Perhaps she should also listen to the wisdom of the majority. Eighty-two per cent of Bangladesh women are literate, but surveys show they only want an average of three children.

It is the international donor community that is not listening to these pleas for help. World-wide, only 1 per cent of international aid goes to family planning and last year lack of money forced an unacceptable price rise in the cost of contraceptives in Bangladesh. We must make a commitment to increase the international investment going into family planning from 1 per cent to an average of 3 or 4 per cent.

Yours faithfully,  
MALCOLM POTTS,  
15 Bateman's Buildings,  
Soho Square, W1.

From the Reverend E. Philip Schofield

Sir, Sir Nicholas Fairbairn's comments, and your headline, "Condoms or cash?", to Dr Judith Ennew's letter reminds me of an incident some 15 years ago, when an elderly spinster was collecting for Christian Aid on the Burnt Oak estate in north London.

An aggressive man, obviously concerned about population control in the Third World, opened the door and said: "I'll give you a condom!" Without hesitation the lady replied: "I rather think it would perish before it gets there — can you give me the price of one?" With a wry smile he gave her £1.

Yours sincerely,  
PHILIP SCHOFIELD,  
8 Priory Close,  
Penyffordd, Chester.

### Libel on Mrs Currie

From the Editor of The Observer

Sir, When Mrs Edwina Currie writes about politicians suffering "cruel" remarks and outright lies about their personal lives and families" (May 17), your readers might think she was describing her recent libel action against *The Observer*. Not so: we made no reference to her personal life or family. Her name appeared in only one line in the offending article, quoting an unguarded remark by an actress — and it needs more lines than that for people to read between them.

As Mrs Currie accepted in court, our offence was not deliberate, but "an accident", an unfortunate juxta-

position. We expressed regret and published a correction two years ago; she brought the action because she felt it didn't go far enough.

There are no grand lessons to be drawn from this episode about what the press may or may not reasonably say about people in public life, or how politicians should defend themselves. In this case, we paid a relatively minor penalty for a relatively minor mistake. Beginning and end of lesson.

Yours sincerely,  
DONALD TRELFOED,  
Editor, *The Observer*,  
Chelmsford House,  
Queensway Road, SW8.  
May 17.

### A test of faith

From Mr A. T. Lawson-Crutenden

Sir, Professor Sir Nevill Mott's article (May 13) was wrongly entitled "Christianity without miracles". It should, in my view, have been entitled "Christianity without faith", or alternatively "without Christ".

In one sentence — "I believe, then, that it is possible to worship in a Christian Church... without accepting all of the doctrine, such as the sacrifice for sin, the second coming and the virgin birth" — he appears to dismiss the cardinal theological doctrines (or tenets of belief) of atonement, the second coming and the immaculate conception.

I wonder what the professor believes and, further, what he worships: the God of his scientific imagination; the physical building; the ritual? It is clear that, however well-meaning and well-intentioned he is (and his article reveals genuine seeking on his part), he cannot worship the God of the Bible if he dismisses so easily these important but admittedly difficult doctrines.

Yours sincerely,  
A. T. LAWSON-CRUTENDEN,  
Dawson Cornwell & Co.  
(Solicitors),  
17 Red Lion Square, WC1.  
May 15.

### Bravissimo Venturi!

From Mrs Marina Morrison

Sir, Amen to Simon Jenkins's article (May 4) and Venturi's new wing for the National Gallery. I pass it several times a week, on my way to a favourite traffic-free alley of bookshops in Covent Garden. I find myself secretly smiling as I go by, with the affectionate inner smile one has upon gazing on a dear one.

Bravissimo Venturi! Your wing pleases me, it inspires me as it echoes softly to the thrasher of a distant grandeur. It also can only make everyone who passes it more determined to win back some civic esteem for London, esteem so sadly lacking in our leaders, who have become so fearful of offending the gods of property speculation and demolition.

Now, what if Trafalgar Square could be used as something other than another smoky roundabout? Yours faithfully,  
MARINA MORRISON,  
ATWATER,  
16 Upper Brook Street, W1.  
May 15.

### Looking askance

From Mr John Taylor

Sir, Whilst sympathising with Philip Austen's protest (May 15) at publishers printing book titles sideways on the spine, may I extend it? If the practice must be followed, could they please standardise it so that one may traverse the shelf with one's head conveniently turned to the same angle?

Otherwise, one passes along a row of volumes cocking one's head from side to side like a puzzled terrier. Yours faithfully,  
JOHN TAYLOR,  
9 Denmark Street, WC2.

From Mr Simon Rutland Thompson

Sir, The benefit of publishing a book's title sideways on the spine is surely that even if the book is replaced upside down, it is still, if at the cost of a stiff neck, legible. Imagine the discomfort and indeed embarrassment of standing on one's head, to read the spine of a book, with the title printed horizontally, had it also been replaced upside down.

Yours sincerely,  
SIMON RUTLAND THOMPSON,  
16 Munster Road,  
Fulham, SW6.

From the Director of Ash

Sir, Mr Rogers repeats the tobacco industry's tired claim that advertising merely results in brand-switching. If this were so, tobacco would be the only product for which advertising fails to expand the overall market, and the three major tobacco companies — Hanson, Gallaher and Rothmans — would be spending phenomenal sums per customer gained from each other.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID POLLOCK, Director,  
Ash (Action on smoking and health),  
5-11 Mortimer Street, W1.  
May 15.

Weekend Money letters, page 34











## Assets

## Arty ways with small gardens

FISHING gnome or humble flower pot, beware. Now everything in the garden is arty. A new exhibition, "The Avant Garden", organised by the Oxford gallery at the Barbican Centre and backed by the Crafts Council, is showing a range of stoneware lanterns, sculptural sundials, planters, gargoyles, fountains, hand-built urns, unconventional bird tables and modern garden furniture, designed to cheer up all classes of garden from rolling acre to urban window box.

Designer-maker Kate Mellors, whose stoneware lanterns and picnic stools are on show, has firm views on town gardens. "So many back gardens look grotty," she says.

"Japanese gardens make use of a range of materials - timber, stone, slate and different-sized shingle - to introduce a variety of textures and build up patterns. People don't seem to do this in Britain. Yet even on a small patio you can use bricks and stones to create visual interest. Developing a variety of areas with different viewpoints is not expensive and the garden will not require a lot of maintenance."

Ms Mellors hand-makes ceramics well suited to urban plots. Particularly distinctive are her Japanese-inspired garden lanterns and stoneware picnic tables and stools, hand-carved with African-style patterns.

"Since town gardens are often paved, it is possible to use braver sculpture and more unconventional hardware than in a greener location," says Stephen Morgan, a potter, who has ten pairs of hand-thrown terracotta planters on show, including large urns with spiralled handles curling from bowl to rim.

Marion Brandis, who works mainly to commission, has about 20 planters on show, from window boxes and urns to a large jardinière. All are made of brightly-glazed, high-fired earthenware, and are frost-proof.

Su Lupasco, who specialises in ceramic-with-metal gardenware and architectural ornamentation, says: "Even avid gardeners don't seem to open their eyes to brighter ways of displaying their plants and creating a harmonious exterior in the same way we would furnish an indoors room."

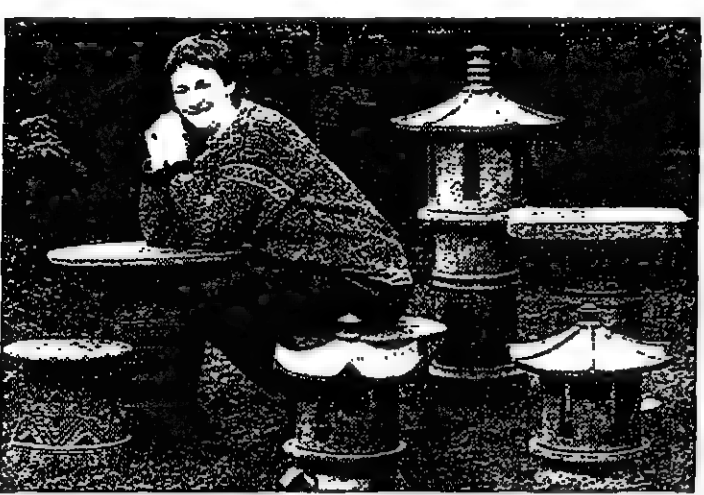
Anyone pining for an outdoor room may be inspired by unconventional over-sized seats by Justin Shadbolt and Julianne Dolphin-Wilding. Both designer-makers use "found" materials.

Park estates provide Mr Shadbolt with much of his metalwork, and Ms Dolphin-Wilding culls driftwood from the Thames.

Mr Shadbolt's flamboyant wrought iron chairs stand 6ft tall. Based on classical mythology, their big arms and claws, wings and eyes, ape human and bestial forms while offering a surprisingly comfortable perch. Ms Dolphin-Wilding's huge seats are fashioned in roughly hewn yew and rope-bound driftwood. She describes her series of "bird posts", fitted with feeders, perches and bird baths, as "five-star hotels with restaurant, sauna and lounge for stylish city birds".

## NICOLE SWENGLEY

● The Avant Garden, on Level 8 at the Barbican Centre, EC2, is open Mon-Sat, 11am-6pm; Sun, noon-6pm; until June 16. Admission free to sculpture court. Conservatory closed June 4-5; 75p, children and senior citizens 50p.



Back-garden brighteners: Kate Mellors and her stoneware lanterns

## Coming to the aid of the party

CHARLOTTE WYNN

Victoria McKee discovers who will help when you can't face a children's party at home

YOU have to be a masochist - or in possession of a huge house and sufficient sympathetic staff - to welcome the idea of a children's party at home.

Capitalising on this, many restaurants, stores and fast-food chains are offering alternatives to the traditional party to boost business during the recession. Even John Major's favourite eatery - the roadside Happy Eater chain - offers children's party meals at £2.75 a head, with such delights as burgers and fish fingers, and a party bag with badges, hats and balloons. "We take a photo of the party and present it to them in a birthday card," says the manager of the Happy Eater in Alrewas, Staffordshire, "and we have a Lego table where they can play, and you are welcome to organise your own games and cake."

Hotels are another option. Claridge's demonstrates what the *crème de la crème* can provide. David Broadhead, the banqueting manager, was enthusiastic when the idea of a (hypothetical) party for 20 six-year-olds was broached.

"We can do a simple party with sandwiches and mini hamburgers, or have the whole thing themed with popcorn and milkshake machines, or whatever you like," he says. "We could do a Winnie the Pooh party with a teddy bear to greet the children - you can let your imagination run away with you." Entertainers, musicians, professionally run games of musical chairs, Punch and Judy shows - all are possibilities. Mr Broadhead admits "it can become expensive - about £20 or more a head - for some of the theme parties". A basic birthday tea would cost about £12 a child, he estimates, with party bags and other extras optional.

Harrods aims to produce the perfect party, in its Georgian Restaurant. Mary McLoughlin, the person in charge, says that although the restaurant can be opened after store hours for £500, it is wiser to take advantage of the late-night closing on Wednesdays when they can "rope off an area of the restaurant" without charge.

"We would come up with a menu and have a cake made to your specifications, and contact our toy department to have 'characters' come along, and we could get a magician or a clown and tie balloons to chairs and



Icing on the birthday cake: Victoria Seel blows out the candles at her McDonald's party - and somebody else will be clearing up afterwards

provide party bags... All this for about £10 a head, plus about £30 for the cake.

For most parents, however - those who are nowhere near Harrods or Claridge's, or cannot aspire to such heights, fast food chains offer a more affordable package.

Children can be happy at even the humblest venue. The essential party ingredient is a host or hostess who is competent and in control. Children sense instantly if they are not, and the party, however good the "noah" and "dosh" (food and goody bags), will quickly deteriorate into chaos.

Parties at Burger King, which boasts a Kids' Club Birthday Blast with jigsaws, iron-on transfers and "oooh" visors, cost £2.35 for a set children's meal of burger, chips and a drink, with party bags optional at 75p each and cakes at £4.75. Parties last an hour and a half, with a hostess to run traditional games such as musical bumps and pass-the-parcel, with

promotional prizes provided. A young man at McDonald's in Solihull, West Midlands, was neither quite loud nor experienced enough to control ten lively five-year-olds, and assorted older siblings, at the recent birthday party of Victoria Seel. Recognising the potential of children's parties - there had been five that day so far - that branch has just built a special annex consisting of a ball pool and slide, and two small tables with red and white-spotted "toddler" seats.

The children had a wonderful time and with no set meal and no room-hire charge, you simply pay for what you eat. Optional party bags cost 75p and a cake £4.75.

British Home Stores is having a party on Monday to publicise its children's party facilities, and to "standardise what was previously run on an ad hoc basis by individual stores". The store in

Coventry promised fish fingers or sausages and chips, jelly, "pop" and a "goody bag" for £2.35 per child.

Swimming baths, ice-skating rinks and sports centres may also be prepared to cater to your needs. The West Midlands sports centre for the disabled, for example, offers a choice of football, swimming and "soft room" parties (the soft room being a padded, brightly coloured gymnasium where children can safely hurt themselves about) with hot or cold birthday teas, jellies, ice-cream and drinks. (Food is about £2 per child; hire of soft room, pool and so on starts at about £20).

Pizza Hut offers a set children's party, with games, for £2.95, including one slice of pizza each. The Beebeater chain offers party menus for "Mr Men" (£1.95 per child) or "Young Diners" (half the price of adult meals), but insists on no more than three children per adult ordering a full meal.

One new venue for children's

parties is the "live action fantasy role-playing" centre of the sort represented by the Adventure Guild (53 Nelson Road, Eastleigh, Essex SS14 5QQ - send SAE for the names of centres near you). Originally they were for adults, who had graduated from the Dungeons and Dragons stage into more active role-playing activities, but Helen Holdford, who runs the Portly Pixie in Coventry, says: "We offer parties for children as young as seven in our Tolkienesque fantasy world. They are taught how to use foam maces and other 'weapons' to protect themselves from the 'monsters' they meet along the way, and we let them battle with Laser-Tag equipment." A Portly Pixie party for six children costs £20, plus £1 per child more for every child up to a maximum of 15. It is a case of bringing your own buffet - and prepare to be buffeted, but it is easier than running a party at home - and you do not face having to clean the carpets.

## Where plastic flowers bloom

STEPHEN MARGISON

A rubbish dump in west London has become home to a 'family' with an unusual garden

"THAT old boy come in here about two years ago. He was an advert on telly. We put him there and dressed him up to make him what he is now. People touch him, you know, they think he is real."

The old boy in question is a macabre mannequin, dressed for war and dripping with trench mud. Unusually life-like, he clutches at his walking stick, a roll-up smouldering at his tips. He is one of a number of unusual items which Fred Thomas, aged 60, has assembled at the waste and recycling centre in Chiswick Park, west London. Mr Thomas has placed two female dummies around the ageing pensioner, whose appearance in a Calor advertisement promoting central heating for the elderly. At his feet, a baby stares out from beneath a fading parasol.

"Somebody brought the others in," Mr Thomas says. "I thought, well, I'll give him his wife and daughters." The site, off the Bollo Lane, is one of three household dumps run by Ealing borough council. It handles 80 tons of rubbish a week. Mr Thomas manages the site along with Ron Hussey, aged 60, who has been working on the council for 31 years, 27 of those as a refuse collector. Mr Thomas has been with the council for 14 years. Before that he was a lorry driver.

Starting though the manne-



Fred Thomas, left, and Ron Hussey with the mannequin

quin family are, the site's chief attraction is its plastic garden, an unashamedly kitsch collection of imitation flora, donated by the public over the past year. A closer inspection reveals some splendidly tacky artefacts hidden amongst the hydrangeas: straw donkeys from Spain, china bulls, fluorescent parrots, plaster of Paris busts, miniature golfers, teapots, shells, lurid fruit bowls - in other words, all those embarrassing souvenirs bought on holiday, the true worth of which is only fully understood back at home. There is a surprisingly low gnome count: one.

William Camp, a freelance film technician, has come to dump garden cuttings. What does he make of it all? "It cheers the place up. Nice to see a bit of art amongst all the rubbish. I come here a lot. If my girlfriend would stop

skilled driving demonstrations and rural crafts. Pet corner for children. Crystal Palace Road, SE19. Today, tomorrow 10am-5.30pm; £3.50, child £1. Save the Children charity skate: Special programme in aid of the charity. Ice disco, and games for small children. Alexandra Palace Ice Rink, Alexandra Palace, N22 (081-365 2121). Today 3pm-8pm. Admission £2, skate hire 50p. All proceeds to charity. Cosplay: Dresses and plot: Living history exhibition at the house involved in a plot to assassinate Charles II. Life as lived in 1642. Rye House, Gatehouse, Rye Road, Haddesdon, Hertfordshire. Tomorrow 1-4pm. £2, child £1 (0992 713838.) London International antique toy and doll convention: Rare dolls, toys, teddy bears and books for sale. Ramada Inn, Little Road, SW6. Tomorrow 9.30am-4.30pm; £4, accompanied child £1. Free catalogue. NEXT WEEK Windsor Frogmore Mausoleum open day: Burial place of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Combine with a visit

quently turns down offers for the choicest items. As he says, they each have a story and it would be wrong to sell them. "Not so long ago," he says, "a woman came in and said her mother had died and she had kept these artificial roses. She said, 'Could I bring them into your garden so when I come in here it will always remind me of my mum?'"

REGULARS at the site often offer Mr Thomas things for his garden before consigning them to the skip. Regulars include actors Robert Lindsay and Richard Briers, and sportsmen Dale Thompson and Ted Dexter. Local man Neil Kinnock has yet to make an appearance. "He goes into the site at Greenford, nearer where he lives," Mr Hussey says. "One of our blokes dropped a brick on his foot a couple of weeks ago. He wasn't too pleased."

Mr Hussey breaks off to chastise Mr Camp (gently) for dropping a twig as he unloads more of his girlfriend's garden cuttings. "This place doesn't have to look like a dump, does it? I mean, what's better than a nice smelling dump? You've got no smells here, no flies, no vermin, nothing like that."

The site is arguably the cleanest in London. Messrs Thomas and Hussey are obsessive about hygiene and keep the area immaculately swept. "I'm clean at home and I'm clean at work," says Mr Thomas. "It is nice for people to come and see something beautiful as they are emptying their rubbish. The public are over the moon. That's often all they come in here for, just to look at the garden."

JON STOCK

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## Events in town

## THIS WEEKEND

□ **Hamptons Heath** film walk: Sponsored walk for the British Heart Foundation's "Exercise for Life" campaign. Maximum 12 miles permitted around the three-mile circuit. **Hamptons Heath, NW3.** Tomorrow from East Heath Road car-park, 9.30am-4pm. Start up to 2pm.

□ **Faller's rural weekend:** Heavy horses, pony clubs, log pulling and loading, falconry,

a plot to assassinate Charles II. Life as lived in 1642. **Rye House, Gatehouse, Rye Road, Haddesdon, Hertfordshire.** Tomorrow 1-4pm. £2, child £1 (0992 713838.)

□ **Save the Children** charity skate: Special programme in aid of the charity. Ice disco, and games for small children. **Alexandra Palace Ice Rink, Alexandra Palace, N22 (081-365 2121).** Today 3pm-8pm. Admission £2, skate hire 50p. All proceeds to charity.

□ **Cosplay** dresses and plot: Living history exhibition at the house involved in

a plot to assassinate Charles II. Life as lived in 1642. **Rye House, Gatehouse, Rye Road, Haddesdon, Hertfordshire.** Tomorrow 1-4pm. £2, child £1 (0992 713838.)

□ **London International** antique toy and doll convention: Rare dolls, toys, teddy bears and books for sale. **Ramada Inn, Little Road, SW6.** Tomorrow 9.30am-4.30pm; £4, accompanied child £1. Free catalogue.

□ **Windsor Frogmore** Mausoleum open day: Burial place of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Combine with a visit

to the state apartments and Queen Mary's doll's house. **Windsor Castle, Berkshire.** Wed. Mausoleum open 11am-4pm. Admission free. State apartments, £2.90, child £1.25. **Queen Mary's doll's house, £1.5, child 60p.** □ **Continental Circus Berlin:** Pacy routines from some of Europe's top performers. **Acton Park, Acton, Thurs-June 2, weekdays 5pm and 7.30pm, weekends and bank holiday Monday 2pm and 5pm. Tickets £4-£10.** (Booking, 081-42 9500.)

JUDY FROSHAUGH

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# All simply a question of breeding

The hot-blooded Arab is a dark horse in the world of racing, Joanna Gibbon reports

Eight years ago, when he was aged 28, Stephen Berry, a painter and decorator from Hertfordshire, learnt to ride a horse. The equine cognoscenti would consider him a late starter, even for gentle recreational horseriding. This month, Mr Berry won a two-mile flat race at Southwell, a racecourse, Nottinghamshire, on his own purchased Arab horse, Balaton's Gem.

Arab horseracing was started in Britain in 1978 by the Arab Horse Society (AHS). Mr Berry took it up four years ago when it became obvious that "Gem" would not behave himself in the show ring. "He wanted to gallop all the time - he lives to gallop and win," Mr Berry says. "He's highly competitive and will race after motorbikes, foxes and even hares."

To more conventional British horse people this would confirm what they always suspected of Arab horses: that they are mercurial, hot-blooded and, well, exotic. The 4,000 members of the AHS find this analysis irritating. Mel Goddard, the vice-chairman of the race committee, who first rode an Arab horse as a child in Israel where her father was a diplomat, and now races her own Arab horses, waxes lyrical about them. "They are wonderfully intelligent, very beautiful and tough. People think Arab horses are flighty but they are just highly aware of what is going on: if a balloon burst beside a donkey it probably wouldn't react but an Arab would, with spark and fire."

Watching these proud, alert animals, mostly coloured a deep chestnut or grey, with their heads and tails carried high, it is difficult not to be affected by their beauty. "Most of the Arab horses bred in Britain come from stock originally imported during the late 19th century. For racing, the AHS allows either pure-bred Arab horses or Anglo-Arabs, a mixture of thoroughbred and Arab."

Other countries have been breeding Arab horses, and for racing purposes the French and Russian-bred Arabs are the fastest. "The French always win our international meetings, which irritates the British," says Kees Mol, the registration secretary of the AHS, who is Dutch.

Interest from Middle Eastern countries has given a fillip to the society's progress. Since 1984, Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, then the finance and industry minister of the Emirate of Dubai, has sponsored the international meetings at Kempton Park. Later this year Sheikh Zayed Al-Nahyan, the president of the United Arab Emirates, is sponsoring a second international meeting.

Comparisons between Arab horses and thoroughbreds are inevitable, now that their race meetings, under Jockey Club rules, with betting from the Tote and bookmakers, are so similar. Even though the present-day thoroughbred owes part of its origins to the Arab, it is bigger and faster. "Thoroughbreds have been bred for speed, whereas Arabs, until very recently, have not. Many people think Arab horses are too delicate for racing," says Mary Carline, the secretary to the AHS and a breeder of Arab horses. She believes that Arabs are harder than thoroughbreds and more intelligent. "They have a better quality of bone and I think it will be proved that they are sounder than thoroughbreds." But she stresses that the society is not competing with thoroughbred flat racing.

While thoroughbred racing demands wealth - and is, essentially, a male sport - Arab horseracing is amateur, cheaper, and supported mainly by women. "You can be breeder, owner, trainer and rider with Arab horse racing; that is almost impossible in other types of racing," Ms Carline says.

A top prize of £9,000 was recently paid for a racing Arab; but a young, untrained horse might cost about £600 and a trained four-year-old could cost between £900-£1,500.

Ms Carline reckons that £2,000-£3,000 a year is needed to keep a horse up to racing standards and a gruelling daily routine is necessary.

"Because it is amateur, everyone is still doing it for fun," Ms Carline says. This must be the conclusion because the prize-money, about £200 for the winner



Arab horseracing at Southwell racecourse: "Because it is amateur, everyone is still doing it for fun"

in each race, might not even cover travelling expenses.

Alison Broomes, jockey, owner, air stewardess and mother, who has raced successfully for nine years, is more forthright about participants. "You might have a cup of tea with them in the morning and then they are reporting you to the stewards in the afternoon."

She feels that more men are interested in the sport. "Before, Arab horse-racing was looked upon as a silly thing that girls did with funny horses, but now that the ex-professional jockeys are here it has become serious."

## Country events

### THIS WEEKEND

- Medieval may fayre: Crafts, combat knights, jugglers, long-bowmen, Punch and Judy, Northway Park, Mickleham, nr Dorking, Surrey. Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm; £2.75, child £1.
- Fighter Meet '91: Combat planes from first world war to today. Pleasure flights, funfair. North Weald Airfield, Epping, Essex. Today, tomorrow, Gates open 9am, flying 12.30-6pm; £5, child £3.
- Vintage agricultural rally: Displays of old farm machinery, vehicles, Clydesdale horses, etc. Auction Mart, Newton St Boswells, nr Melrose. Tomorrow 10.30am-4.30pm; £2, child £1.
- Sheepdog demonstrations: A Suffolk shepherd puts his collies through their paces. Audley End House, nr Saffron Walden, Essex (0799 223599). Tomorrow, 2pm. Small charge.
- Hallbury Mill open day: Display of more than 100 decorated boats. Hallbury Mill, Ganton Green, nr Bishop's Cleeve, Hertfordshire. Today 2.30-5pm.

JUDY FROSHAUG

Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

## Those dratted weeds of May

I CHALLENGE you to view my field of newly sown mangel-wurzels, and all the May-time buddings disfiguring it, and still find it in your heart to greet any of them as "darling". We have a fine crop of unwanted thistles and mayweed, docks and nettles, but of desirable mangel-wurzels we have none. The mangel seeds, unnerved by the cold and dry start to the year, have been shivering under the clods of earth since they were sown in mid-April, not daring to sprout. The weeds, on the other hand, have had an entire winter's dormancy in which to refresh themselves, and the mildest of excuses has them leaping into life.

In conventional farming it wouldn't matter, as a cunningly targeted chemical would eradicate the intruders and leave the crop to flourish. But we are attempting organic farming and are supposed to be more sympathetic to the patterns of Nature. Alas, she is not always sympathetic towards us. Weeds are her blind spot. You might think that all the effort we put into building fertility with natural manures and fertilisers might charm her into letting us off weeds for a season or two, but if you could see my mangel field you would know what a bitch this woman can be. Creeping thistles, clearly the invention of a vindictive mind, are my worst enemy. They have been biologically programmed so that their instinctive reaction when faced with death is to reproduce. If you take a hoe and slice off their heads they simply spit in your face and send up several shoots more vigorous than the last. There is an old farming proverb which goes: "Cut 'em in May, they come next day. Cut 'em in June and they'll come again soon. Cut 'em in July and they're sure to die."

Which is all very well if you can wait until then, but I fear that by July the mangel-wurzels will have given up the unequal struggle. After a particular depressing meander through this field I retired to my aged farming tomes in the hope of finding solace. But the Farmer's Cyclopaedia of 1823 warns: "They... maintain so pertinacious a hold upon spots

where they have taken root to be very difficult of extermination; they, in all instances, so facilely and multitudinously scatter their winged downy seeds that one free growth on a slovenly managed farm would propagate them over many square miles." Cue the sleepless nights for the slovenly farmer.

At least the thistles are not a problem of my own making, which is more than can be said for the kale stumps. Last year we grew a bumper crop of kale. By Christmas we were cutting it and feeding it to the cows, who clearly were unable to keep up with the speed at which it was growing. By March it was getting desperate so I offered the entire field of it to a shepherd with a couple of hundred hungry sheep. From fields away could be heard the sound of leaves being torn by the chisel-toothed flock. What a few cows had failed to do in a season, the sheep managed in a week. Except that they didn't eat the stalks. These remained upright in the earth like a forest of lolly sticks. I had to get rid of them. I tried the pigs, thinking that their ever-rooting snouts might relish a dig down to the kale roots, but they merely chased between them in a piggy salom and left them unscathed.

I called in my neighbour, Farmer White. He turned up with a battery of mechanical choppers and diggers, and roared up and down until nightfall. It was only a partial victory: dawn revealed defiant stumps standing as proud as soldiers, ready to fight another day. I advanced with two horses and ploughed them under, which is what I should have done in the first place. Then I looked across at the thistles, wishing for as swift a solution. I retired again to my farming tomes. The first I opened bore the following inscription, which I believe to be biblical: "I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding. And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof... I looked upon it, and received instruction."

If anyone knows what the instructions were, I would be pleased to hear from them. But make it soon. The thistle grows ever higher and down below, the kale stumps may be getting ideas.



## Clipping the wings of traders

### Feather report

If a robin redbreast in a cage puts all heaven in a rage, the angels from the realms of glory must be choking with apoplexy the day after day. As an example of sinful wastefulness, the trade in wild birds is

hard to beat. A campaign against this business will be launched next week by the RSPB, the RSPCA and the Environmental Investigation Agency, which are seeking a complete ban on the wild bird trade throughout the European Community. This is not

a matter of sentimental guff: it is not a few soppy birds folk trying to stop people pursuing their hobbies. They are taking on a multi-million pound international industry.

This is not a campaign against aviculture. Birds can be bred in captivity; often are. But that's doing it the difficult way. The easy way is to capture thousands of wild birds, ship them to the markets and flog the survivors.

This is, quite simply, a numbers game. Hundreds die, but enough survive to make this the most profitable way of doing bird business. There are tip-of-the-iceberg figures to show this. In 1988, 47 hum-birds, 21 were dead, the other 26 died in quarantine. The same year, a shipment of 280 honey creepers arrived: 68 were dead, 194 died in quarantine. An on, and on.

The birds come from Asia, South America and Africa. There are two stock responses to this: one is to blame the third worlders, the second to say that banning the trade would harm the third world. Both are inappropriate.

One can hardly blame third world people for making a couple of bob here and there, but the big money in wild birds is made by the importing countries. The trade is run for the benefit of entrepreneurs in Europe, North America and Japan. And as it becomes clear that the third world is not a bottomless pit of goodies, the pace of exploitation slows up.

After decades of trapping, there is only one species of Spix's macaw left in the wild. The EC imports one million birds from the wild every year. The business thrives on mistaken and/or forced declara-

tions on import/export documents. Protected species are smuggled in regularly. Legislation is impossible to enforce: how many customs men can recognise a Spix's macaw?

The only answer is a blanket ban on wild bird trading. The EC operates a similar ban for the export of its own birds: the implementation of a ban on imports of other countries' birds is a logical next step.

In the United States, plans to end the trade are in progress. Of 410,035 birds imported in 1988, 12,907 were dead on arrival, 38,942 died in quarantine, and 6,596 were refused entry because of disease. These were killed.

The campaign urges a three-point legislation: all trade in all birds must be made illegal unless the bird is of a species on a "green list" and is captive-bred; or, if it is not on the green list, can be proved to be captive-bred; or if the shipment of the bird has real conservation benefits.

Pet birds are greatly loved, but anyone who acquires a bird without knowing it was captive-bred commits a crime against conservation and against life.

SIMON BARNES

● The campaign pack, "Ban the Wild Bird Trade", is available from RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

● What's about: Birders - listen for mechanical churring sound of nightjar in East Anglia and southeast England. Late arrivals include turtle-doves and spotted flycatcher. Twitchees - rare American larkspur sparrow at Wexham, Norfolk. Laughing gull on Orkney. Details from Birdline 0898 70022.



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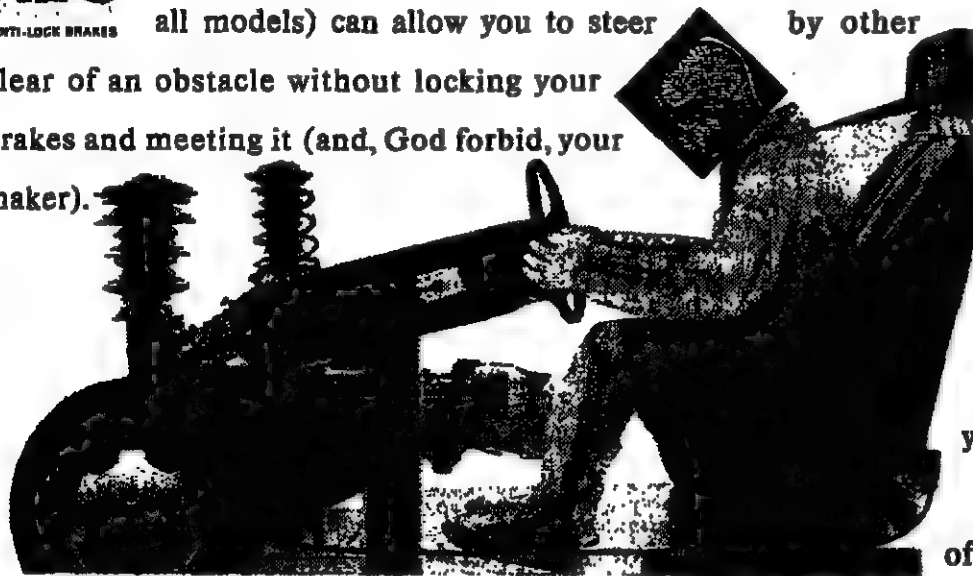
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The new Audi interior is as quiet as a Mercedes dealer after reading the 100's reviews (wind noise, engine noise and road noise have all been reduced).

And the Audi 100's excellent all-round visibility and orthopaedically designed seats are being talked about in hushed tones by other manufacturers.

Despite all these precautions, however, on the road there are still elements beyond Audi's control.

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The new Audi 100's engines are testimony to this.

The completely new V6 which powers the new 100 2.8E is the shortest and lightest engine for its capacity on the market.



Its high torque (or pulling power) at the bottom of the range prompted the respected German car magazine, 'Auto Motor und Sport' to describe driving between 2,000 and 4,000 revs as a 'genuine pleasure' in comparison to the BMW 525i and the Mercedes 260E.

While at higher revs, the same magazine noted that the Audi only takes 12.5 seconds to accelerate from 50 to 75mph in fifth gear on the



Dr. Elmar Vollmer,  
Head of Safety.

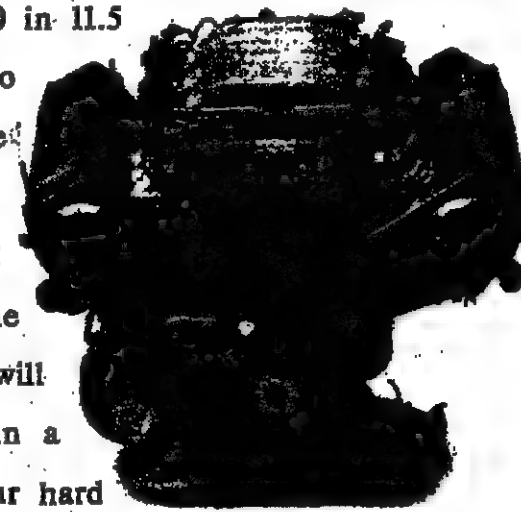
Herr Ernst Muller,  
Head of Chassis.

autobahn while the BMW requires 17.1 seconds and the Mercedes 16.3 seconds.

The conclusion of this highly respected team was that the Audi surpassed the competitors 'in terms of responsiveness and performance characteristics.'

As, dare we say it, did the tried and tested 5-cylinder 2.3E (0-60 in 11.5 seconds as opposed to 12.1 seconds in the Mercedes).

And the refined 2 litre, 4-cylinder engine whose smooth power will beat any tax man in a standing start to your hard earned cash.

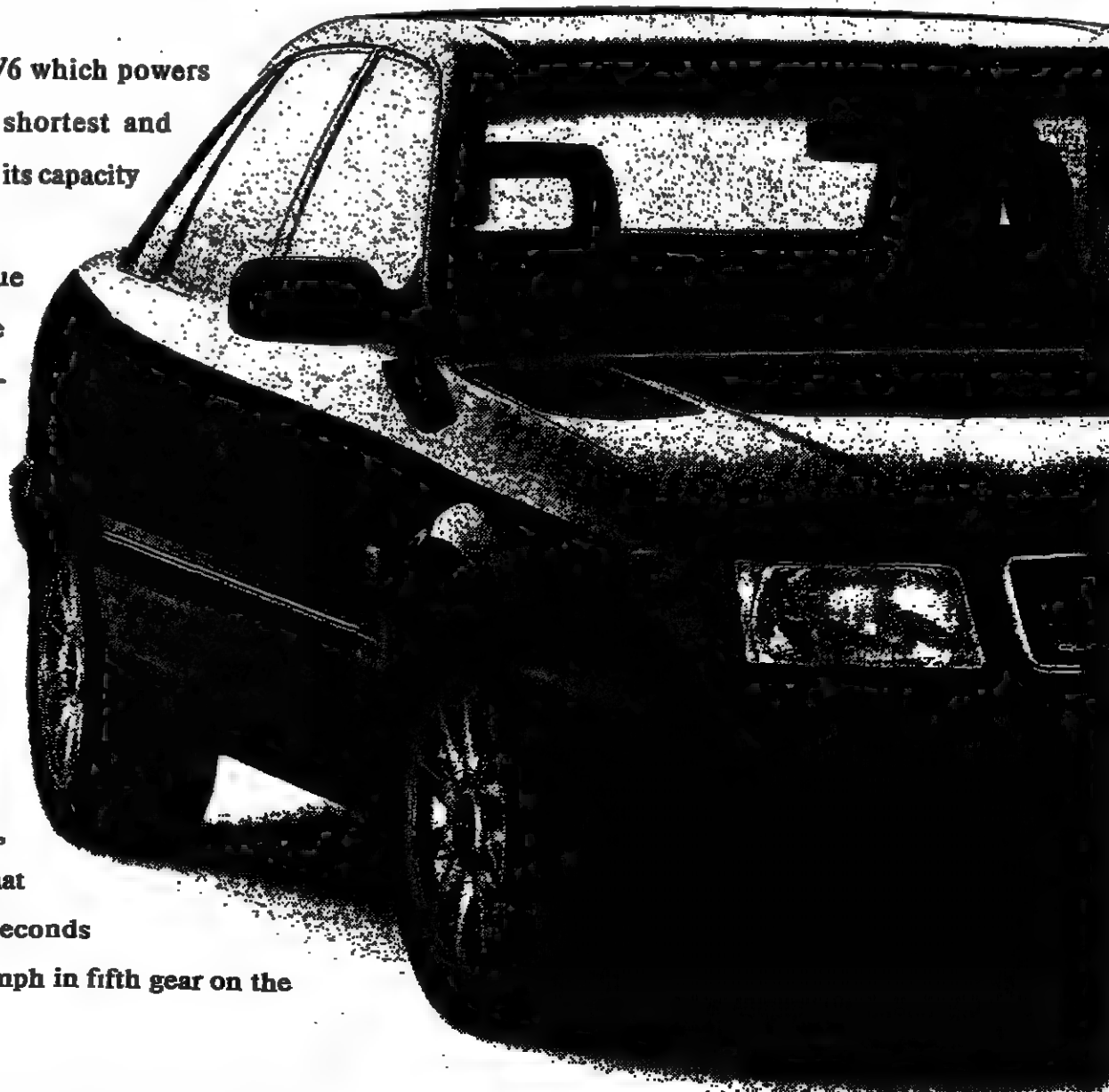


The size of engine then that suits you bears thinking about.

The V6, however, has a mind of its own.

This engine has on-board diagnostics in the control unit that monitor all the engine's functions continually.

If something is wrong the engine will switch to 'fail-safe' to enable you to get to an Audi workshop.



FIGURES ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS AND EXCLUDE

مكشوف من الأصل



# Put our heads together to protect yours.



Dr Hans-Werner Poitz,  
Engine Design.

Herr Hartmut Warkuss,  
Head of Design.

The engine will then make you aware (through the instrument panel) of the situation.

And advise the mechanic exactly what the problem is.

What it won't do is tell you to have a service very often.

Major intervals are 20,000 miles apart and there is a one-year comprehensive warranty with unlimited mileage.

Audi were also one of the first car manufacturers to recognise that the planet's resources aren't unlimited either.

Because since 1978, Audi have been implementing an environment protection policy.

**We didn't jump on the green bandwagon. We started it.**

Audi were, of course, the first manufacturer in the UK to introduce catalytic converters as standard across the range.



These remove up to 95% of toxic pollutants from the car's exhaust.

And at Audi we are constantly developing and improving their effectiveness.

The new V6, for example, feeds the exhaust gases from the left and right cylinder banks into two separate catalytic converters, each with its own oxygen sensor.

This 'stereo lambda control' had the US authorities dancing for

joy as it easily passed their emission tests.

A 'clean' car, however, is worthless if it doesn't come from a 'clean' factory.

All paints and plastics used by Audi are cadmium-free.

All models are free from asbestos.

No CFC gases are used in the foam for the seats.

Even the wood for the dashboard comes from local sources rather than the ever-diminishing rain forests.

The life-span of the car is also as important as the quality of life of the driver. Because when a car 'dies' it has to go somewhere.

Audi is still the only volume car manufacturer to produce fully zinc-galvanised bodies for standard models.



Which is why the new Audi 100 has a 10-year body protection warranty.

And when a car does come to the end of its life, Audi has pioneered a re-cycling programme which will utilise three-quarters of the materials (including, amazingly, a lot of the plastics).

**A great deal of thought has gone into the little things.**

From the life and death issue of conservation to the little things that make life a bit more comfortable.

As we've already said, a tired, irritable driver is more likely to have an accident.

At Audi, we have improved the new Audi 100's suspension, as there are no such things as good vibrations.

The seats now support both sides of the body (making long distance driving as comfortable as a short hop to the shops). The optional sports seats can even be adjusted for length.

Headroom has been increased (a great relief to the writer of this advertisement whose abnormal height was leading to premature baldness caused by the roof of the old model).

Heating and ventilation (again a source of annoyance to the writer in the old model) have also been improved.

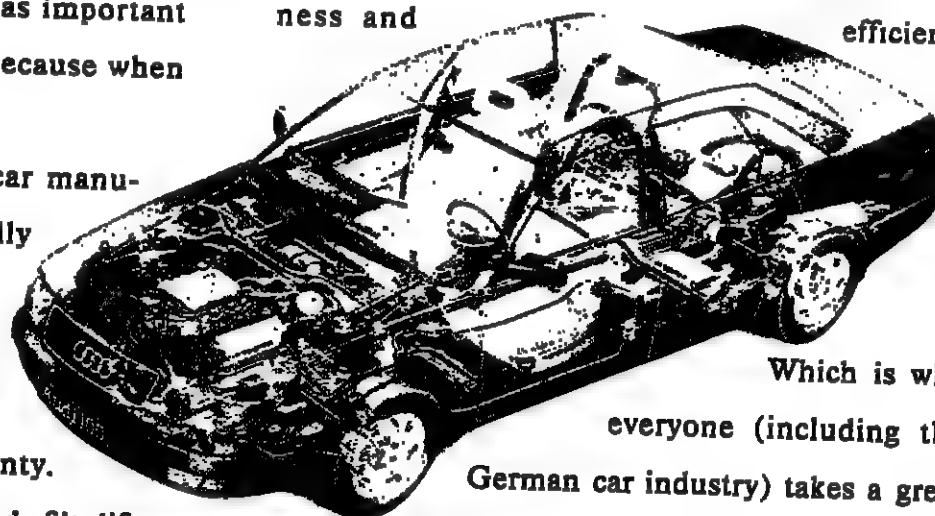
Space is also no longer the final frontier. The interior is roomier. The boot capacious.

The Audi has a 510 litre boot (four large suitcases and hand luggage to you and me) while the BMW 525i has a volume of 460 litres.

And while we're on the subject of comparisons.

**In German road tests, great minds thought alike.**

As you'd expect, the road tests that German car magazines carry out are noted for their thoroughness and efficiency.



Which is why everyone (including the German car industry) takes a great deal of notice of the results.

The magazine 'Autozeitung' concluded that the Audi 100 2.3E 'in comparability tests takes first place' over the BMW 520i and the Mercedes 230E.

The respected 'Auto Motor und Sport' placed the Audi 100 2.8E top in 4 out of 5 categories tested against the BMW 525i and Mercedes 260E concluding (fairly logically) that 'Audi has succeeded with its new 6-cylinder engine in not just drawing level with the competition, but moving ahead of it.'



In an article titled, 'Audi takes the lead over Mercedes and BMW', the Test Director of 'Autobild' magazine concludes, 'Audi has succeeded in endowing its new 100 with a higher profile for the same overall dimensions. It now appears considerably more compact and easier to handle than before and is significantly more enjoyable to drive. In my opinion, it is a real alternative to the BMW and Mercedes.'

These then are the conclusions of the experts. But at Audi we credit you with the intelligence to draw your own.



**THE NEW AUDI 100 FROM £17,650.\***

For an information pack on the new Audi 100 and to arrange a test drive please complete the coupon and send to: Audi Information Department, FREEPOST, Yeomans Drive, Blakelands, Milton Keynes MK14 5EY. Or call free on 0800 585685.

TT/100/1805

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## The Sporting FOLDING SEAT

Rustproof aluminium frame and sturdy seat will easily accommodate UP TO 16 STONE.

The seat you can literally take with you anywhere! Coopers, makers of Goddards first quality Walking Sticks since 1870, have produced this pressure made, Folding Seat now available directly to you.

The built-in design of the frame, gives comfortable carrying handles which transform to useful armrests when sitting. The folding seat is a unique combination of lightweight materials and sturdy structure. Ideal for use wherever you go. When folded can act like a walking stick, and will fit easily in a car boot and even your suitcase.

Constructed from rustproof aluminium and finished with a classic 'Continental' green cotton seat, there are no catches or levers to fiddle with when you want to sit just unfold - that's it!

We guarantee our time and effort and about you'll be looking for your Folding Seat before you go!

COOPERS

Available in three sizes:  
Small 17" x 14" x 14" and  
Large 22" x 19" x 19" Price: £29.95  
+ postage and packing £2.95

IDEAL FOR  
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AND MUCH MORE FOR ONLY

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+ p.p. &amp; p.

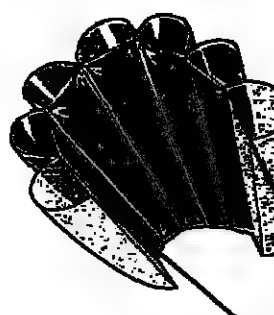
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or please debit my Access/Visa account the sum of £  
My Card number is: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Fly a Ferrari Kite

Anyone, aged six to sixty plus, can fly the Ferrari - first time. Just hold it up. Let go. It will soar into the air.

The Ferrari Kite has no sticks or spars - you can fold it into a pocket. Being made from Ripstop Nylon it is virtually indestructible and is safe to fly in crowded places. It is designed using the ram jet principle giving it unique look. The air comes out faster from its longitudinal cells than it enters so you can fly it in breezes which wouldn't lift many other kites.

The material is translucent. You always see the bright multi-colours no matter how high you fly. Add that to the pleasure of feeling the breeze pass through the cells and you are, literally, in touch with the elements.

The Ferrari Kite is supplied complete with line, reel and a carry pouch, ready for instant flying. Plastic and cheque payable to M.L.A. (Dept. A)

M.L.A. 242-244 St John Street, London EC1V 4PH

AVAILABLE 4 sq. ft. - £16.95  
IN 3 7.5 sq. ft. - £25.00  
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42 pence incl. VAT, P & P

An elegant and durable 21" overnight bag made exclusively for The Stocking Company in the award-winning workshops of John L. Chapman & Co.

Khaki multi-layered cotton canvas and rubber with solid brass tip and buckle, and best leather leather strapings... and no ugly legs.

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in your choice of the world's finest fabrics. West End quality

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## PILOT SHIRTS

LONG SLEEVE SHORT SLEEVE

£5.95 £5.50



Just look at these excellent quality shirts - they are the bargain not to be missed. Only due to our bulk purchase direct from the manufacturer! Fully cut with a good length in smart military style and made from the ideal combination of 65% Polyester 35% Cotton for easy-care washability. Made to top English Spec. they feature 2 buttoned flap breast pockets and epaulettes. Long & Short sleeve available in White, Beige or Blue in all neck sizes: 14 1/2" to 18 1/2".

COTTON DRILL SAFARI TROUSERS FROM ONLY £6.95

Don't be fooled by the price - these immaculate trousers are of the finest quality and exceptionally good looking. Traditionally cut in the classic style from machine washable, natural 100% Cotton Twill with belt loops, 2 side and 1 buttoned rear pocket & parallel legs. KHAKI with zipfly, matching canvas belt & 2 front pleats in waists 32" to 40". ONLY £6.95. Waists 42" to 46". ONLY £7.95. In leg lengths 31" & 33". with easily adjustable hem. Quater: KD/TR. NAVY with buttoned fly in waists 32" & 34" in 32" leg only. ONLY £6.95. Quater: DR/TR.

HOW TO ORDER? Quote item, reference code, neck, waist, leg, colour & 2nd colour. Add £2 post & p.p. for 1 or 2 items. THREE OR MORE ITEMS SENT POST FREE. Send cheques to: Dept. Access Via No. or phone your card No. on 081-880 5586/5587/5588 weekday office hours only. Satisfaction or money refunded. Delivery 21 days. Post to: SANDER & KAY plc (T 23) 101-113 SCRUBS LANE, LONDON NW10 6GU. Callers: 178 Chesham Road, Weybridge, Surrey TW20 2EX. Open Mon to Sat 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

AT LAST - A HIGH QUALITY D.I.Y. WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM AT A PRICE WITHIN EVERYONE'S REACH

Now you can drink crystal clear, fresh tasting water straight from the tap!

Previous selling price £199

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BANKRUPT STOCK PURCHASE MAKES THIS SPECIAL PRICE POSSIBLE

These very high specification domestic water filters sold nationally for £199. Designed and manufactured in the UK, we acquired them through the officially appointed liquidator and are able to offer them to you at just £59.65!

Save a small fortune on bottled water alone!

Today, millions buy expensive bottled water because they feel uneasy about drinking water from the tap. This strictly tested product will change all that. The water comes from the tap clear and spring fresh.

Discover the real taste of water for a change!

It's a revelation. Deliciously drinkable with chlorine tastes removed. Safe for all the family.

Bring back the true flavour of coffee, tea... all your food and drink!

The true flavour comes through, you use less tea, coffee, squash. Kettle and steam-iron line scale is defeated too.

DEMAND WILL BE GREAT AND STOCKS ARE LIMITED. SO ONLY TWO PER PERSON. TO RESERVE YOUR SYSTEM(S) JUST CALL:

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OR COMPLETE THE COUPON AND POST TO: EXPANDBEST - THE WAREHOUSE CLEARING CO. P.O. BOX 275 SOUTHAMPTON SO9 7NS. NO TRADE ENQUIRIES PLEASE

PLEASE SEND ME FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE FILTRATION SYSTEM. WRITE CLEARLY IN BLOCK CAPITALS.

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DEXTER Navigators

The most comfortable boat shoes on earth

Supple, oil tanned leather, handsewn uppers, solid brass eyelets, multi-grip soles and exclusive 'luxury liner' footbed. In a variety of colours.

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Venomous: Katherine Terrell as Regina Giddens

## Lame duck out on the left wing

Regina  
Royal, Glasgow

THERE was perhaps a reason for doing this piece. Marc Blitzstein, though never a great composer, was certainly an interesting figure. Like many young Americans in the 1920s he went to Paris to study with Boulanger, unlike the rest he also had lessons with Schoenberg in Berlin. Perhaps that opened him to being fired by Eisler's vision of socially useful art when he was back in 1930s New York.

With him the striving for a democratic American style, seen in the music of such contemporaries as Copland and Roy Harris, took on a political edge. But then, with the start of the Cold War, the dream began to fade, and it stopped being tolerable for a left-wing artist to try to stir the masses by speaking the musical language of Broadway.

Regina dates from this period. It still waves a flag against capitalist corruption: out of Lillian Hellman's play *The Little Foxes* it keeps a simplistic denunciation of financial bichery among a family of cotton-farmers, pinpoints in Alabama. But it lacks depth, dramatically in a slow shuffle of inconsequential scenes. It puts a toe in the water of Brecht-Weill, parable-telling and then jumps out again.

There is, most crucially, an unsettling lack of sense to the interweaving of speech and song. Sometimes the most baldly uninteresting lines ("Well, here we are at last. It's good to be back home") are set to the most baldly uninteresting music. But then when the dramatic temperature rises, the characters are likely to revert to speech, as in the most violent exchanges between Regina and her husband.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

### TELEVISION REVIEW

# Access to excess a tacky success

Kate Muir maintains that *Manhattan Cable* and *Watching the Detectives* are useful guides to the Big Apple's more shrivelled features

For the trash television junkie, *Manhattan Cable* (Channel 4, Wednesday) is the perfect hit. No item is more than about three minutes long, pandering to the pancy of the modern attention span. Its 11pm start ensures that most viewers are added by sleep or drink; its content ensures instant wakefulness.

The awakening is not a comfortable one, for if *Manhattan Cable* were junk food and not junk television it would feel like eating a double cheeseburger, followed by a burrito and then a carry-out carry that leaves your fat.

The gers yellow and your mind uneasy. Instant pleasure followed by instant disgust, and then total overload. The programme consists of selections from New York's three public access channels, where anybody can have their own uncensored television show. That means anybody, including Jim O'Brien speaks his mind from his bath and Mr and Mrs Mitchell hold a celebration of the Virgin Mary.

In the ancient tradition of British viewing, started when Alan Whicker first went to Florida to quiz the overweight rich, it is time to laugh at those wacky Americans again and feel superior. But this time the viewer gets closer to the real thing, because the cuts from one item to the next give the feeling of switching irrationally from channel to channel in the hope of finding something sensible to watch.

Nothing sensible here, though. Or indeed sensitive. Yes, it's *The Brenda and Glenda Show*, subtitled: "Two drag queens go out on the town and confront 'homophobia'." Cut to Brenda in a flashing

fake leopard-skin coat, white stockings and a blonde wig, buttonholing innocent subway passengers who have no method of escape, and asking in a deep baritone: "Are ya having a good time on the metro rail today, people?" When someone mutters "maybe you should learn to be a real man", Brenda's voice leaps a few octaves. "Maybe you should learn a little tolerance," she squeaks, moving her fists in on the victim. Moments later, Glenda, sporting a white sequinned number, gets her comeuppance as she is surrounded by a flock of Bible bashers. "The Word of God can deliver you from all of this," says one. Sadly, there is no delivery for the viewer, because by now the conflicting feelings of addiction and horror have set in. The camera and linkwoman Laurie Pike are now following a Social X-Ray figure, in best Bonfire of the Vanities style, into *Après Cosmétique*. Have you wondered where people go, not for the nose job, but the recovery period? You see the before and after pictures, but not the purple puffy ones. That is because the patients are in a new luxury post-operative retreat on the Upper East Side.

Inside the pink-upholstered retreat, the proprietor relates the story of one woman who was only 33 and had everything done. "I mean everything. Even liposuction," she pauses to emphasise each syllable, "on her rear end."

Things get increasingly surreal thereafter. Jim O'Brien is, indeed, in his bath. For a moment you worry that he is only wearing the yellow bathing cap and the glasses, but he gets up to show his new tight black cycle shorts. He is, perhaps,



the Noël Coward of bathtime. A plastic duck sails down the water. "You know," says Jim, "this little duck will never have to die. I feel so sorry sometimes for that which has life, because that which has life has to die." Profound pause. "That which is dead is alive forever."

Cut to Queerdona, the man who loves Madonna so much that he follows her to restaurants, stakes out her apartment and dresses like her. Which would be fine, if he did not weigh 16 stone.

At this point, satiated by sleaze, the viewer pauses to wonder first whether the deregulation of television will mean public access shows like this in Britain, and

second whether the British would indulge in such high camp. Probably we would have *Gardening Tips from a Perse Senai*.

The key to understanding the New Yorker's psyche is realising that in *Manhattan Cable* is by no means peculiar. The characters in *Watching the Detectives* (Channel 4, Monday), for instance, would easily have won a three-minute slot. It features Bo Dietl, a Brooklyn private-eye who clearly spends a lot of time in restaurants, perhaps in an attempt to be a larger-than-life character.

He certainly is large, as are many of the retired cops who work for his agency. They are always hitching up their increasingly-tight trousers, chewing gum, slugging black coffee

(which they pronounce cwaufee) from paper cups, and looking tense and sleepless. This might be the set of *Columbo*, except that our hero falls on the dirty raincoat front. Bo, a retired policeman mugged over 500 times in set-ups, wears rings — big gold ones — a Rolex watch and cufflinks like manhole covers. "I like money," he says, somewhat unnecessarily. "My lifestyle's in tune with having a lotta money."

Bo laments that gathering evidence for the private sector is not so much fun as being in the police. Then, he enthuses, "you were always breaking down doors and stuff." It can only be hours before *Manhattan Cable* recruits him.

• Lynne Truss is on holiday



Petulant queen: Donna Croft as Cleopatra

Antony and  
Cleopatra  
Bloomsbury

ORIGINATING in Liverpool with the *Manxside* Everyman Theatre, Talow Theatre Company's version of Shakespeare's play now arrives in Bloomsbury. African, Caribbean and Asian actors provide a suitably cosmopolitan cast for a portrait of the Greek-Egyptian dynasty's involvement with the Roman Empire. Yvonne Brewster's production has moments of passionate sincerity and an overall commitment that make up for patchiness of concept and erratic execution.

The play has been pruned, characters amalgamated and even unsexed. The effect is to diminish its fatalistic impact, no feeling of a love that defies society and politics hurtling

towards inextinguishable doom. Nor do the central pair convey magnificent thoroughbreds galloping towards the slaughterhouse, masters of the world who throw it all away.

Helen Turner's semi-abstract designs are an impressive backdrop for passages of intimacy and obsession. The production has its perfunctory touches: Enobarbus walks upstage in search of a ditch to die in; attempts to the ground, and remains alert, through the ensuing scene, only to get up and die later.

The main miscalculation is to keep the smooch onstage in vigorously semaphoring silence through many key episodes. Got up to look like Jessye Norman, David Webster deserves better, to judge by the meticulous delivery of his relatively few lines.

After the opening dance, a pseudo-hilarious hoochy-coochy to some all-purpose Eastern music, the play settles down to a straightforward reading of the main relationship.

MARTIN HOYLE

A Wing and a Prayer  
New End,  
Hampstead

THE wheelchair-ridden ladies of Alan Franks's new comedy inhabit an up-market home for the disabled. The ballustrades of Andrea Carr's set are, it is true, broken, the carved angels' lichen blotched, but this suggests designer chic rather than genuine dilapidation.

We are introduced to three disabled inmates: former barister Joan, former social worker Peggy, and the Dame, a Thespian of advanced years who has just inherited an electric wheelchair called The Buick. Despite disabilities, Joan's acid tongue is as free as it can ever have been. Peggy transmits inviolate blandness and the Dame seems quite content intoning Shakespearean tags (giving her, most gratifyingly for the veteran

Lela Lloyd, a laugh on every exit line).

But it is Joan who, in Yvonne Bonnamy's energetic performance, effortlessly steals the show. She laments the loss of career, sex and legs with a bitterness which none of the others even approaches. The trouble is that she is so relentlessly articulate as to leave little room for any kind of response: in the absence of the courtroom she is both prosecution and defence.

The plot, which involves a gardener's boy, the inevitable vicar whom Chrys Salt directs as a ludicrous stereotype given to remarks such as "do I discommode?", a labour candidate and Joan's (also socialist) son, chugs along entertainingly without ever seeming connected to the theme. Alan Franks, in Tuesday's *Times*, defended the use of comedy to make a difficult subject accessible; but the laughter must come from within.

HARRY EYRES

### THEATRES

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## BBC 1

- 6.40 Open University  
7.30 Pinocchio. Animated adventures with the boy puppet 7.50 Kibblyur (r)  
8.15 The 8.15 From Manchester. Children's magazine programme with music, video, chat and news. Hosted by Rose King, Dianne O'Riordan and Charlotte Hinde. Guests include Sonia, singing her new single in the studio, and Neighbours actress Linda Hartley. Plus live music from rock band Definition of Sound, the latest news about New Kids on the Block  
10.55 Film: Flight of the Dragons (1983). Animated sword and sorcery adventure aimed at the young audience. At a time when dragons rule the skies and wizards rule the earth, one man is brought back from the 20th century to adopt modern technology to help a band of good wizards recapture the all-powerful Red Crown from a band of evil wizards. Featuring the voices of John Ritter, James Earl Jones and Harry Morgan. Directed by Jules Bass 12.27 Weather  
12.30 Cup Final Grandstand. The line up is (subject to alteration): 12.35 Teams' Arrival 2.15 Cup Midway 2.40 Abide With Me 3.00 Cup Final Live coverage of Tottenham Hotspur, trying to salvage a troubled season, versus Nottingham Forest, hoping to win a first Cup for Brian Clough. The commentators are John Motson and Trevor Brook. With analysis from Jimmy Hill and Bob Wilson  
5.1 The Pink Panther Show (r)  
5.3 News and weather 5.40 Regional News and sport  
5.45 The Flying Doctors. Undemanding Australian drama starring Liz Hurrell and Robert Grubb as medics of the Flying Doctor service. There is no sign of rain and Emma and Sam face financial ruin in drought-stricken Coopers Crossing  
6.30 That's Showbusiness. Mike Smith hosts the celebrity entertainment quiz with team captains Kenny Everett and Gloria Hunniford joined by writer Barry Cryer, actor Bryan Murray, EastEnders Wendy Richard and actress Barbara Windsor  
7.00 You Gotta Be Jokin'. Anarchic sketches, impersonations, audience participation and stand-up comedy with newcomers Shane Richie, Annette Law, George Marshall, Madci Cryer and Billy Pearce  
7.30 Columbo: How to Dial Murder. Peter Falk stars as the shrewd and scruffy Lt. Columbo in another case of bizarre murder. Noted psychologist and mind control expert Dr Eric Mason (Neil Williams) uses his special skills to commit the near-perfect murder, but Columbo does not understand why two lovable Dobermans would attack someone they knew. With Tricia O'Neill, Kim Cattrall and Ed Begley Jr. (r)  
8.40 One Foot in the Grave. First of the repeated comedy series starring Richard Wilson as Victor Meldew, a satirically miswed 60-year-old with limited tolerance of the world's klosynocracies. After 26 years of loyal service with the same company, Meldew is suddenly faced with redundancy and life on the scrapheap. His long-suffering wife Margaret (Annette Crosbie) is more sanguine and brings down his old magic kit from the attic, launching him into a new avocation (r). (CeeFax)  
9.10 News with Martin Lewis. (CeeFax) Sport and weather



Personal and professional crises: Brenda Fricker (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Casualty: Penalty. Oscar-winning actress Brenda Fricker stars as kindly nurse Megan in the first of a repeat series of the realistic medical drama. After a violent hospital, Megan hears the news on the radio and rushes to work. But later she receives a lecture about her attitude from the new registrar, who is unaware that Megan has been attending her husband's funeral. With Derek Thompson, Cathy Shpton and Robson Green (r). (CeeFax)  
10.20 Match of the Day: The Road to Wembley. Extended highlights of the afternoon's Cup  
11.20 Film: Cat's Eye (1985). Odd three-part thriller based on short stories by horror writer Stephen King and linked in theme, though not in plot, by a witty straitjacket. The first, starring James Woods, involves a company that terrorises its clients into giving up smoking, the second, starring Robert Hays, focuses on a gangster with a macabre sense of humour and the last, starring Drew Barrymore, features a small girl whose house is haunted by an evil gremlin intent on suffocating her. Directed by Lewis Teague  
12.50am Weather

- 6.50 Open University  
7.25 Mahabharata. Episode 48 of the Indian epic in 91 parts. In Hindi with English subtitles  
7.35 Northern Lights. Sheffield artist George Cunningham (r)  
7.35 Film: A House on the Edge. David Leitch's E.M. Forster's novel about the British presence in India into a handsomely mounted epic with a raft of solid performances. The cast includes Victor Banerjee as the enthusiastic Muslim surgeon, Judy Davis as the impressionable Miss Quested, and Peggy Ashcroft as her benevolent aunt, Mrs Moore. Dr Aziz arranges a trip to his beloved Marabar caves for a party of English gentry. An unfortunate incident leads to a disturbing turn of events for members of the party. The score is pure music and the misadventure of Alec Guinness as an Indian sage provides an unexpected comic turn. (CeeFax)  
8.15 Late Again. Highlights of the week's The Late Show  
7.00 News with Martin Lewis. Sport and weather  
7.15 How Wars Begin: The Cold War. A.J.P. Taylor concludes his impromptu series of lectures by looking at the origins of the cold war and the future of warfare in a nuclear age (r)  
7.50 Denzaku: Heaven Above in His Breast  
CHOICE: A new season of contemporary dance is produced by a team of choreographers from the critic Judith Mackrill not to expect the conventional. Mindful that none of the five programmes is exactly Swan Lake, the producers have given Mackrill a generous slot in which to be the uninitiated. Tonight's offering demonstrates one of the challenges to traditional dance, which is to mix it with other elements. Heaven Above is a collaboration between the choreographer, Ian Spink, and the composer, Judith Weir, has a strong operatic element. It also, in this television version by Peter Mumford, makes striking use of film devices such as close-ups and dissolves. The piece is based on a tale by Hoffmann, which arrives at the Philadelphia home of eccentric millionaire Anthony Drevel Biddle (Fred MacMurray) looking for work as a butler. Also starring Greer Garson, Geraldine Page and Hermine Baddeley. Directed by Norman Tokar  
5.00 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather 5.05 LWT News and weather  
5.10 MacGyver: Birth Day. Action-packed drama series starring Richard Dean Anderson as American secret agent and science buff MacGyver. When Elaine Hartman (Toni Kalem) threatens to expose her husband's underground crime ring of ex-cons, he vows to silence her. Circumstance brings Elaine together with MacGyver, who sets out to save her and the child she is carrying  
6.10 Daylight. A kind of MacGyver. TV's answer to Paul Daniels with more off-beat magic, assisted by Linda Luscombe  
6.40 Bob's Your Uncle. Veteran comic Bob Monkhouse hosts the slapstick game show for newlywed couples  
7.25 Agatha Christie's Poirot: The Adventure of the Clapham Cook. Repeated art deco crime-busting starring David Suchet as the Belgian super-sleuth with Hugh Fraser as Captain Hastings. A respectable cook vanishes from a London household and a city bank clerk absconds with £50,000. Are the two incidents related? You can bet they are. With Philip Jackson, Pauline Moran and Brigit Forsyth. (Oracle)  
8.25 Duty Free. Keith Barron and Gwen Taylor star in the award-winning comedy by Eric Chappell and Jean Warr about the misunderstandings among two couples on a package holiday on the Costa del Sol. With Joanne Van Gysegem and Neil Stacey (r). (Oracle)  
8.55 News with Fiona Armstrong. Sport and weather 9.10 LWT Weather  
9.15 Film: B.L. Stryker - Auntie Sue (1989). Fourth in the series of formulae made-for-television movies starring Ray Reynolds as B.L. Stryker, an ex-cop turned private investigator. Stryker's Aunt Sue (Barbara Stanwyck) has a grand plan to leave the Sunnydale Retirement Home with two close friends and acquire an old mansion herself. Also starring Rita Moreno and Douglas Fairbanks Jr. Directed by Tony Wharmby. (Oracle)  
11.05 Metro. Ian Dury and Anabella Weir host the London arts and entertainment guide. Tonight's edition includes an interview with Tom Stoppard about the film he has directed of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, performed by Living Colour and Tango Argentino and Montserrat Caballé in London household and a city bank clerk absconds with £50,000. Are the two incidents related? You can bet they are. With Philip Jackson, Pauline Moran and Brigit Forsyth. (Oracle)  
11.40 Film: The Order of the Phoenix (1977). The season of ludicrous American B-movie continues with a camp monster flick about a prehistoric dinosaur woken from hibernation after a freak meteor shower. The creature is brought back to life only to wreak murderous havoc on a small fishing village. Starring Glenn Roberts and Mark Siegel. Directed by William Shatner  
1.15 Film: The Joy of Sex. A series of short films about sex and the human body. Directed by John Durrant. Starts the show at the Junction Club in Cambridge featuring music and comedy  
2.00 Night Heat: Friends. Detectives Giambera (Jeff Winick) and O'Brien (Scott Hylands) are called to help when a joffie turns into a deathride  
2.55 American College Football. Princeton v Dartmouth  
3.55 The Hit Man and Her. Disco music, news and fashions  
5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Nelson. Ends at 6.00



Sexual revelations: Stephen Haworth and Berlie (10.15pm)

- 10.15 Video Diaries: Off The Rails  
CHOICE: Tonight's amateur film has been made by Stephen Haworth in an attempt to mend fences with his parents, who have never accepted his homosexuality. More than that they are unyielding Christians who quote the Old Testament as saying that gay men will be damned. When his parents found out that he was gay, Stephen left the family home in Brighton to live in London with an actor friend, Berlie. His mother says she was devastated and still has a little cry about it. She still wishes Stephen would get married and have children. Stephen's frequent railway journeys between the capital and the Sussex coast take on a symbolic meaning as they emphasise the distance between his two worlds. But the signs are that his rough-edged and impeccably honest film may, against considerable odds, be helping to close the gap  
11.15 Film: The Log Lady. Has disturbing news for special agent Cooper (r). (CeeFax)  
12.00 Film: D.O.A. (1950, b/w). Sharp and original thriller starring Edmund O'Brien as the public accountant bizarrely involved in solving the case of his own murder. Director Rudolph Mate ingeniously propels his protagonist through a succession of breathless twists which accelerate into a nightmare. With Pamela Britton and Luther Adler. (CeeFax) Ends at 12.55am

- 6.00 TV-am  
9.25 Ghost Train. Thrills, fun and excitement with Frances Dodge and Salma Williams. The group Technobots sing live and there's a look behind the scenes of the making of Kylie Minogue's new video  
11.30 The ITV Chart Show. Featured in the Vintage Video slot are Marc Bolan and T Rex  
12.00 News and weather 12.05 LWT News and weather



Hayley Mills, Maurice Chevalier, Michael Anderson Jr (12.10pm)

- 12.10 Film: In Search of the Castaways (1962). Enjoyable Victorian fantasy with Maurice Chevalier, Hayley Mills and George Sanders as an unlikely band of bounty hunters who encounter earthquakes, avalanches and savage cannibals and a raft of off-beat misadventures in their globe-trotting quest for a shipwrecked sea captain. With Wilfrid Hyde White, Michael Anderson Jr and Antonio Cifariello. Directed by Robert Stevenson  
2.10 Film: The Happiest Millionaire (1957). Heavy-going musical comedy starring Tommy Steele as an Irish immigrant who, in 1916, arrives at the Philadelphia home of eccentric millionaire Anthony Drevel Biddle (Fred MacMurray) looking for work as a butler. Also starring Greer Garson, Geraldine Page and Hermine Baddeley. Directed by Norman Tokar  
5.00 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather 5.05 LWT News and weather  
5.10 MacGyver: Birth Day. Action-packed drama series starring Richard Dean Anderson as American secret agent and science buff MacGyver. When Elaine Hartman (Toni Kalem) threatens to expose her husband's underground crime ring of ex-cons, he vows to silence her. Circumstance brings Elaine together with MacGyver, who sets out to save her and the child she is carrying  
6.10 Daylight. A kind of MacGyver. TV's answer to Paul Daniels with more off-beat magic, assisted by Linda Luscombe  
6.40 Bob's Your Uncle. Veteran comic Bob Monkhouse hosts the slapstick game show for newlywed couples  
7.25 Agatha Christie's Poirot: The Adventure of the Clapham Cook. Repeated art deco crime-busting starring David Suchet as the Belgian super-sleuth with Hugh Fraser as Captain Hastings. A respectable cook vanishes from a London household and a city bank clerk absconds with £50,000. Are the two incidents related? You can bet they are. With Philip Jackson, Pauline Moran and Brigit Forsyth. (Oracle)  
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## CHANNEL 4

- 8.00 Conco Book 7.30 Pet World presented by vet John Wilson (r) 8.00 Trans World Sport. International sports reports with news and highlights  
9.05 News summary followed by Channel 4 Stacks: The Morning Line  
9.25 Sing and Swing. Performances by jazz stars of the Thirties and Forties (r)  
9.30 Listening Eye: Our World, Our Future. Britain's deaf youth voice, their grievances about the society they live in (r)  
10.00 Images: The Best of Nothing. The series on the history of photography looks at the use of photographs in the Victorian era (r). (Teletext)  
10.30 Wagon Train (b/w). Classic Fifties western series  
11.30 World League of American Football. The London Monarchs are at the New York Knights  
12.30 The Munsters (b/w). More ghoulish laughs from America's most bizarre household (r)  
1.00 Film: Hollywood Party (1934, b/w). Wildcat tinsel-town soirée with a slapstick guest list including Laurel and Hardy, Jimmy Durante, Bobo, Allan Dwan and Roy Rowland  
2.20 Film: Fanny Pants (1950). Lucille Ball does a better job of playing a gauche woman of wealth than does Bob Hope, as the cut-of-work British actor who becomes her butler, in this piece of wild west froth. Directed by George Marshall  
4.05 Equinox: Spillane. Documentary examining the myths surrounding the famous second world war fighter aircraft (r). (Teletext)  
5.05 Brookside Omnibus (r). (Teletext)  
6.30 News summary and weather followed by Right to Reply. A visit to the village of Pluckley in Kent, home of the *Carling Dogs of May*, to see what the locals think of the series (Teletext)



Providing gentle Victorian entertainment: the banjo (7.00pm)

- 7.00 Sound Stuff: Echoes of America  
CHOICE: Matthew Whittman's enjoyable film offers a brief, potted history of the banjo, or rather its place in American popular music, with plenty of examples to set the feet tapping. Originally from Africa, the banjo may seem a trivial instrument. On the contrary, it has contributed to the instrument's variety of musical styles and genres. It has been flexible enough to accompany both the plantation songs of the black slaves and middle-class parlour ballads. It was an essential component of jazz and ragtime and lies at the heart of bluegrass country music. It can take on Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" without sounding silly and back the protest songs of Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger. The film attempts few technicalities, preferring to let the instrument speak for itself. Archive film, contemporary performance and evocative locations (such as Delaware, Tennessee) help to tell the picture  
8.00 Adventures: Kakadu - Land Of The Crocodiles  
CHOICE: Taking a solo canoe trip in the Kakadu National Park of northern Australia, Val Plumwood, a lecturer in environmental philosophy at Sydney university, was attacked by a crocodile. She was badly injured but she was convinced she would die. She spent two months in hospital recovering from her injuries. The experience was terrifying and yet she was determined to exercise it. This very personal film, narrated by her, follows her return to Kakadu nine months after the incident. It takes some courage. To begin with she is scared even to look at a dead crocodile in a museum. But she gradually comes to terms once more with the remote bushland and the dangerous waters. She describes herself as a respecter of nature and implicitly blames herself for the accident. When she hears that the crocodile who went for her has been shot, her first reaction is one of anger. (Teletext)  
9.00 thirtyomething: Photo Opportunity. Strangely written American drama tracing the lives of seven friends in their mid-thirties. (Teletext)  
10.00 Film: The Unvanquished (1957, b/w). The second of Satyajit Ray's masterly "Apu" trilogy which touchingly portrays the life of an impoverished family in a small Bengali village. Directed by Satyajit Ray and Ananda Ghoshal. In Bengali with English subtitles  
11.55 On The Other Hand. Bombay film personality Shekar Kapur hosts the Asian talk show. Tonight a group of intellectuals and journalists representing both the Hindu and Muslim sectors of the Indian community discuss the coming Indian general election  
1.10am Australian Rules Football. Essendon v Hawthorn and Collingwood v Geelong. Ends at 2.10

## SATellite

## SKY ONE

- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.  
6.00am Euphoric Boy 6.30 The Flying New 7.00 Fun Factory 11.00 The Sound of Music 12.00 News 1.00am Combat 2.00 WWF Wrestling Challenge 3.00 Monday 4.00 Big Heats 5.00 The Sound of Music 6.00 Penker Live 7.00 The Sound of Music 8.00 The Sound of Music 9.00 The Sound of Music 10.00 The Sound of Music 11.00 The Sound of Music 12.00 The Sound of Music 1.00am The Sound of Music 2.00 The Sound of Music 3.00 The Sound of Music 4.00 The Sound of Music 5.00 The Sound of Music 6.00 The Sound of Music 7.00 The Sound of Music 8.00 The Sound of Music 9.00 The Sound of Music 10.00 The Sound of Music 11.00 The Sound of Music 12.00 The Sound of Music 1.00am The Sound of Music 2.00 The Sound of Music 3.00 The Sound of Music 4.00 The Sound of Music 5.00 The Sound of Music 6.00 The Sound of Music 7.00 The Sound of Music 8.00 The Sound of Music 9.00 The Sound of Music 10.00 The Sound of Music 11.00 The Sound of Music 12.00 The Sound of Music 1.00am The Sound of Music 2.00 The Sound of Music 3.00 The 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BBC 1

**6.45 Open University**  
**6.55 Playdays (t)** 9.15 *Discovering Portuguese (t)* 9.40 *Step Up to the Plate* (t). (Ceebs) 10.05 *A Way With Numbers*  
**10.30 Bazaar (t)** 10.55 *Sign Extra*. For the hearing impaired 11.20 *Country File* presented by John Craven  
**11.45 Who Cares?** Pam Rhodes joins young Christians of the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs as they celebrate the end of their annual London Weekend, live at the Albert Hall 12.45 *Holiday Outings*. Kathy Taylor visits Walt Disney World in Florida (t) 12.55 *Weather*  
**1.00 News** followed by *On the Record*. Jonathan Dimbleby talks to Margaret Beckett, shadow treasury secretary, about the Labour party's economic thinking  
**2.30 EastEnders**. Omnibus edition (t). (Ceebs)  
**3.00 The 100th Anniversary of the First World War** when his doctor at the mental hospital reveals his plans for a course of drug therapy. (Ceebs)  
**3.30 Film: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969)**. Stylish, light-hearted western with engaging star turn Paul Newman and Robert Redford as leaders of an outlaw gang renowned for their audacious train robberies. William Goldman's accomplished script follows their double hold-up of the Union Pacific railroad and subsequent pursuit by an expert posse leading to a final shootout in Bolivia. The film also features the Oscar-winning Burt Bacharach song, "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head". One of the biggest commercial hits of the 1960s. Directed by George Roy Hill. (Ceebs) 5.30 *The Flintstones (t)*  
**5.55 Masterchef**. Gourmand Loyd Grossman presents the amateur cooking competition with broadcaster Sue MacGregor and top chef David Wilson judging the three-course meals, all prepared for four people within a budget of £30. (Ceebs)  
**6.25 News** with Moira Stuart. (Ceebs) *Weather*  
**6.40 Songs of Praise** for Pentecost, live from the Albert Hall  
**7.15 Butterflies**. Carla Lane's bittersweet comedy from the Seventies starring Wendy Craig as Rita, a bored housewife tempted by the attentions of another man (t). (Ceebs)  
**7.45 All Creatures Great and Small**. Christopher Timothy, Robert Hardy and Peter Davison return in the classic veterinary series set in the Yorkshire Dales (t). (Ceebs)  
**8.35 Tonight at 8.30: Ways and Means**. Joan Collins and her repertory company plot through the sedition in the series of *Detached* Noel Coward playlets, about Stella and Tony Cartwright (Collins and John Standing), a couple of upper-class spouses flitting around the Côte d'Azur. With Tony Stewart, Edward Dux, Harold Godwin and Stan Phillips. (Ceebs)  
**8.55 News** with Michael Buerk. (Ceebs) *Weather*  
**9.20 That's Life!** presented by Esther Rantzen  
**10.00 Mastermind**. Magnus Magnusson quizzes more contestants in the University of East Angles' Saturday Centre for Visual Arts. The specialist subjects are: the life and works of Vladimir Nabokov; Hollywood musicals 1933-58; UK and US military and naval aircraft 1939-51 and the life and works of Ed Murrow  
**10.30 Everyman: The Prisoners of Burrell**  
**10.55 CHOICE: An extended edition of Everyman** reports from Albania on the legacy of 40 years of Stalinist brutality. Michael Outfield's film ranges widely, over history, politics, economics and religion, it portrays a country condemned to years of isolation, poverty and oppression. But it is most concerned with the violation of human rights. This year, in the approach to the elections, the government released 800 political prisoners from Burrell jail. Father Alex was incarcerated for 20 years because he was a Catholic priest. Petros Kraschis, a brilliant scientist who led Albania's drive for oil, was arrested and tortured when he was unable to meet impossible targets. Petros Dyma, a big landowner before the war, was sentenced with his three sons to a total of 60 years imprisonment. But the most poignant story is that of the son of a former prime minister, arrested with his mother for crimes against the state. Northern Ireland: The Championship  
**11.20 Walk the Talk**. The series on successful management. Charles Handy reports on the Enterprise in Education initiative which aims to involve pupils and teachers in work placements in industry  
**11.45 Northern Ireland: Everyman 12.10 Walk the Talk 12.35 Masterchef 12.45 Masterchef (t) 12.55am Weather**

BBC 2

**6.35 Open University**  
**12.00 Regional Parliamentary programmes**. Wales: *Farming in Wales*  
**12.30 Sunday**. Includes an interview with Dr John Giffert, who was a member of the Commons debate committee at the time of the Western affair, on an issue raised by Sir Bernard Ingham's memoirs. Plus a report on the employment commission's pressures to control under age working. (Ceebs)  
**1.00 Open University: Materials in Action - Given Enough Rope**  
**1.25 Sunday Grandstand** presented by Helen Reddy. The lineup is (subject to alteration): 1.30, 2.10, 2.55, 4.20 and 5.30. Motorcycling: the ACU Superbike British championship from Donington; 1.50 and 2.40 Football: reports from the victorious England and Scottish cup teams; 3.20 and 4.55 Gymnastics: the Daily Mirror Champions All International from the NEC, Birmingham; 6.10 Cricket: a look at the career of the West Indies captain, Viv Richards  
**6.30 The Money Programme**. Ros Baw investigates how the service industries are facing up to job losses for the first time  
**7.10 Great Journeys: The Ho Chi Minh Trail**. Philip Jones Griffiths, photographer and author, travels the once vital communications and supply link between north and south Vietnam - the Ho Chi Minh Trail. He tells the new generation of soldiers, who re-enact some of the techniques which made the route possible, and share in footage, made available by the Army Film Unit, showing how the trail was used on a day-to-day basis (t). (Ceebs)  
**8.10 Relative Values: The Colour of Money**  
**8.35 CHOICE: Echoes**. Scott's recent *Scarlet on Art*, but without the jokes. *Relative Values* is a short investigation into the forces which determine the value of works of art. Value does not necessarily mean the same as price and tonight's film tells the story of Picasso's *Autumn Landscape*, painted in 1905 and given to the owner of a Paris café in return for free food and drink. Some reckon it is not exactly the greatest work in the Picasso canon yet by 1985 it was being auctioned by Sotheby's in New York with an expected price of at least \$40 million. The narrative is speeded along by the two questions of how much the picture will actually make and who will buy it. The bidders include several Japanese collectors, a man in an aircraft and the millionaire Walter Annenberg, once the United States ambassador to Britain. Among the way there is a portrait of Sotheby's which does its best to be understating  
**9.00 Thinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy**. Stylish, impeccably acted and almost incomprehensible adaptation by Arthur Hopcraft of the novel by John Le Carré. Episode Three finds George Smiley (Alcega) investigating the phenomenal memory of Cornelia Sachs (Barry Peck) for clues to the identity of the mole located at heart of the Circus - the British Secret Service. Also starring Ian Richardson, Michael Jayston and Bernard Hepton (t). (Ceebs)  
**9.50 Moviedrome**. Alex Cox introduces *The Beguiled* (1971).  
**10.30 CHOICE: A new season of out movies** opens with Don Siegel's strange and fascinating western about a Yankee soldier (Clint Eastwood) who seeks refuge in a Confederate girls' school and tries to resist the advances of several young women. The film is a collaboration, the best known being *John Ford's* *The Longest Day*. Also includes Joseph Losey's title-seen American thriller, *The Provender*, and films such as *Walter's Force of Evil* and *Walter's White Heat* that are too much in the mainstream to qualify as *White Heat*. The description is probably better reserved for *Lennart Bessel's* *Love Is a Battlefield*, by the eccentric Finn Aik Kauranen, for the Herk/Hark horror movie *Carver of the Mask*, made in 1982 but only rediscovered last year. As usual the films are introduced by the British director Alex Cox (Rapa Man, Sid and Nancy), whose flashy style conceals a shrewd appreciation of the subject. (Ceebs)  
**11.35 Voices of Saratini**. In 1987 Johannesburg's Market Theatre premiered *Saratini*, a comic musical dramatising the bloody 1976 uprising in which Soweto schoolchildren rebelled against the imposition of Afrikaans as the official language of South Africa. The musical went on to a surprise Broadway and West End success. Nigel Nobla's documentary interweaves excerpts from the New York production with comments on their troubled homeland from the young South African cast. Ends at 1.00am

ITV

**8.00 TV-ent. Includes, at 8.00, Frost on Sunday**. With Kenneth Baker and interviews with the Dalai Lama and the Romanian prime minister, Petre Roman. The newspapers are reviewed by Jane Thynne and Anthony Howard  
**9.25 Disney Sunday Movie: The Leftovers (1986)**. Second part of a made-for-television drama starring John Denver as Max Sinclair, the director of a foster-home for difficult older children, whose days are numbered unless his over-zealous superiors can be tamed off and the "family" kept together. With Gary Williams and Pamela Segall. Directed by John Denver  
**10.20 The Littlest Hobo**. Adventures of a cunning canine  
**10.45 Link**. Johnny O'Connell uses songs and satire to highlight disabled rights  
**11.00 Morning Worship**. A Pentecost Mass from St Mary's Church, Major Road in Cumbria  
**12.00 Vision**. Nick Stuart discusses the role of religion in politics and current affairs  
**12.30 LWT News Weekend**. Shadow transport minister Joan Ruddock and Conservative MP John Bown discuss Labour's plans for London  
**1.00 News** with Fiona Armstrong. *Weather*  
**1.10 International Rugby Union**. In the run-up to the World Cup finals in four months' time, Scotland play the United States in Hartford, Connecticut. Followed by *The World's Worst*  
**2.10 Charlie's Angels**. The publicist trio investigate a series of threatening telephone calls made to a training school for air hostesses (t)  
**3.00 Film: Houseboat (1958)** starring Cary Grant and Sophia Loren. Major romantic comedy about a widower and his three children who live on a houseboat with a glamorous home help. Directed by Melville Shavelson  
**5.00 The London Match**. Highlights from one of today's second division play-off matches  
**6.00 Chess**. Sports and general knowledge game  
**6.30 News** with Fiona Armstrong. *Weather* 6.55 *LWT News and weather*  
**6.40 Appeal**. Paul Coia appeals on behalf of *Cous and Review*, a talking magazine for the blind  
**6.40 People Get Ready**. The last in the three-part series of the gospel show presented by John Farnham and Juliet Clary features hymn writer/organist Graham Kendrick  
**7.15 Watchdog**. Lame northern steeple starring Paul Bown and Emma Way as star-crossed lovers Malcolm and Brenda (t). (Oracle)  
**8.15 The Help Squad**. First of a six-part advice and investigations series presented by Michael Parkinson, Anneke Giles, Chris Donat and Michael Eshkol. They take on viewers' personal, career and consumer problems  
**8.45 News** with Fiona Armstrong. *Weather* 9.00 *LWT Weather*  
**9.05 Jeeves and Wooster**. Set in the splendid series of P.G. Wodehouse tales starring Hugh Laurie and Stephen Fry as Bertie Wooster and his unflappable valet Jeeves. For once the prospect of marriage seems attractive to Bertie, but Jeeves is firmly against the plan. (Oracle)  
**10.00 Splitting Image**. More supposedly satirical sketches at the famous 10.35 *Supers*. Superior romantic sleuth starring Roger Rees, Judy Law, Eamon Boland and Susan Blake as four lovely people who meet in a singles bar. Jackie prepares herself for Clive's marriage proposal and Pamela resigns herself to being Malcolm's "good time girl" (t). (Oracle)  
**11.00 The Shape of the World: Empire**. The fourth of a six-part documentary series unravelling the story of maps. Patrick Stewart explores the mapping of the British Empire in Asia. (Oracle)  
**12.10am The ITV Chart Show (t)**  
**1.05 New Music**. Rock and pop magazine  
**1.20 Derrick: Coffee With Bees**. German police drama starring Horst Tappert as Chief Inspector Derrick investigating the death by poisoning of a young actress  
**3.15 Pick of the Week**. Highlights from regional television  
**3.45 Portrait of America**. A look at the state of Connecticut  
**4.35 Adventure**. Video collage of adventurous types  
**5.05 The Magic Wolf**. Philip Pradon serves up some simple and easy-to-prepare Chinese culinary delights  
**5.30 ITV Morning News**. Ends at 6.00

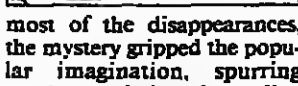
CHANNEL 4

**8.00 Trans World Sport (t)** 7.00 *Europa's Castle* 7.30 *Footie* 8.00 *Sharky and George* 8.30 *Betty's Bunch* New Zealand-made children's drama serial 9.00 *California Raisin Show*  
**9.25 Mafud Days: Swampy and Friends**. Serial from India  
**10.00 A Week in Politics - Second Reading**. Labour MP Harriet Harman and junior health minister Stephen Dorrell MP, discuss Wednesday's Commons health debate  
**10.45 Dennis** 11.00 *East That*. Young people make their own video against a Mercedes backdrop (t)  
**11.30 The Lone Ranger (b/w)**. Vintage western adventures 12.00 *The Waltons* 1.00 *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea (b/w)* American sci-fi drama series set beneath the waves  
**2.00 Film: Samson and Delilah (1949)** Turgid and ludicrous biblical extravaganza, too boring to be funny, about a woman scorned who seduces her former man by taking a sharp instrument to his hair. Not even the climactic sequence of the demolition of the temple can save it. With Victor Mature and Hedy Lamarr in the title roles, and support from George Sanders and Angela Lansbury. Directed by Cecil B. DeMille  
**4.25 Pursuit of Power**. New series in which political commentator Adam Raphael peers into the workings of the minds of politicians, exploring their motivations and work ethics. His first subject is Neil Kinnock  
**4.55 News** summary and weather  
**5.00 Land of Europe: Home From Home**. Documentary about the conflicts experienced by a Frenchman when he tells the family farm to a Dutch buyer  
**6.00 Madras: Services v Tamil Nadu**. Further coverage of the unusual Indian sport  
**6.30 The Wonder Years**. American series about growing up in the Sixties  
**7.00 Fragile Earth: Fishing in Troubled Waters**. After years of being taken for granted as a giant cesspool by British companies, the Irish Sea has become a sally coup of toxic waste, with serious effects not only on the immediate marine ecosystem but further afield (Teletext)  
**8.00 Hard News**. David Jessel investigates the world of public relations and hopes to find out the extent to which the newspapers and their PR industry need each other  
**8.30 Blue Remembered Hills**  
**8.55 CHOICE: The novelty** of Dennis Potter's 1978 play is that the leading characters, a group of seven-year-old children, are played by adult actors. Here in their short trousers and ankle socks can be spotted the likes of Colin Welland, Helen Mirren, John Bird and Michael Eshkol. It is a brilliant device, employed not as a gimmick but to suggest that youthful behaviour is carried over into the grown-up world. The play starts as an apparently affectionate reminiscence of childhood, set in the English West Country during the second world war. But the children's games gradually change from innocence to cruelty and eventually escalate into horrifying violence. Potter's message is a bleak one. He is suggesting that the fall from grace starts at a very early age. *Blue Remembered Hills* (the title is a quotation from Dylan Thomas) won the BAFTA award for best play and is a landmark in television drama  
**9.55 Meet Gary Purves' hilarious cartoon** about Shakespeare going for an audition - using an amazing five minute précis of his collected works as his audition piece  
**10.05 Film: Smack and Thistle (1980)**. A telling Nineties tale of a black burglar who becomes involved with the rich young drug addict (Pauline Bennett) whose house he has broken into. Their relationship breeds a mutual dependence as the streetwise Earl Ender (Charlie Clive) helps weed the girl, who is the daughter of a wealthy multinational head, off her heroin diet. Life is not so romantically simple for the couple though as they find themselves entangled in a web of upper-crust crime and corruption that rivals Caine's previous low life. With strong supporting performances from Geoffrey Palmer and Connie Booth. Directed by Tunde Keloi. (Teletext)  
**11.50 True Stories: Sid's Children**. Documentary film-maker Nick Gifford's portrayal of life in Britain through the eyes of West Indian-born Sid Williams. In this, the third of the series of films, Sid reflects on his efforts to keep his family together in the most unpromising circumstances (t). Ends at 1.20am

**ANGLIA**  
**As London except 12.30pm-1.00pm** Farming Diary 2.00 *News* 2.30 *The River Thames* 3.00 *News* 3.30 *News* 4.00 *News* 4.30 *News* 5.00 *News* 5.30 *News* 6.00 *News* 6.30 *News* 7.00 *News* 7.30 *News* 8.00 *News* 8.30 *News* 9.00 *News* 9.30 *News* 10.00 *News* 10.30 *News* 11.00 *News* 11.30 *News* 12.00 *News* 12.30 *News* 1.00 *News* 1.30 *News* 2.00 *News* 2.30 *News* 3.00 *News* 3.30 *News* 4.00 *News* 4.30 *News* 5.00 *News* 5.30 *News* 6.00 *News* 6.30 *News* 7.00 *News* 7.30 *News* 8.00 *News* 8.30 *News* 9.00 *News* 9.30 *News* 10.00 *News* 10.30 *News* 11.00 *News* 11.30 *News* 12.00 *News* 12.30 *News* 1.00 *News* 1.30 *News* 2.00 *News* 2.30 *News* 3.00 *News* 3.30 *News* 4.00 *News* 4.30 *News* 5.00 *News* 5.30 *News* 6.00 *News* 6.30 *News* 7.00 *News* 7.30 *News* 8.00 *News* 8.30 *News* 9.00 *News* 9.30 *News* 10.00 *News* 10.30 *News* 11.00 *News* 11.30 *News* 12.00 *News* 12.30 *News* 1.00 *News* 1.30 *News* 2.00 *News* 2.30 *News* 3.00 *News* 3.30 *News* 4.00 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FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK



The clear television pictures showed four of the planes remarkably intact in a tight

lor took to be the Florida Keys, the chain which snakes southwest from Miami into

**Maintaining the breed:** three six-week-old ravens, born in the Tower of London and thriving under the care of Yeoman Raven Master John Wilmington, have reduced the mythical risk of ravens putting the monarchy in danger by leaving the tower

## Continued from page 1

Hiccups in past legislation has ensured that the Isle of Man remains, if on paper only, under the yoke of laws enacted by former, less consti-

Islanders will once more be able to carry their cross-bows for Henry VIII's Crossbows and Handguns Act of 1541 has also fallen victim to Lord Mackay's reforming zeal.

Continued from page 1

The Foreign Office yesterday summoned Albert Butros, the Jordanian ambassador, who represents Iraq's interests here, to demand an explanation of Mr Brand's whereabouts, Sir David Hannay, Britain's ambassador to the United Nations, said Mr Brand had been one of the human shields used by Iraq before the Gulf war. His treatment violated the promises Iraq gave the UN in return for a ceasefire.

Mr Brand's son Andrew yesterday expressed his family's shock and said his father was an innocent businessman.

By MICHAEL EVANS  
REFERENCE CORRESPONDENT

Other prominent American recipients of honorary knight-hoods are former president Ronald Reagan and Caspar Weinberger, the former defense secretary. Similar awards were made to General Mark Clark and General Matthew Ridgway, the American commanders-in-chief of the United Nations command during the Korean conflict.

**Dinner with the Queen, page 8**

**Nom de guerre:** "When I contemplate what is going to happen, I have to fight off the tears, for all that I was the first to prophesy it." And what is it that has got Bernard Levin so choked up? Nothing less than the possible return to a name whose fame is rooted in antiquity

### Solution to Puzzle No 18,608

**Name/Address** \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS ON PAGE 13

**TIMES WEATHERCALL**

## AA ROADWATCH

C London (within N & S Circs) ... ..	731
A-ways/roads M4-M1 ... ..	732
A-ways/roads M1-Dartford T ... ..	733
A-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 ... ..	734
A-ways/roads M23-M4 ... ..	735

**Concise crossword, page 13**

**Lighter spots:** becoming white

\* denotes figures are latest available

**GLASGOW**  
Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 18C (64F); min 6pm to 6am, 9C (48F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 6.3 hr.

5pm, 0.05 in Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

**LIGHTING-UP TIMES**

**TODAY**



First quarter May 20

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY: 25X

Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Denmark Kr	11.83	11.13
Finland Mkk	7.36	6.91
France Fr	10.45	9.80
Germany Dm	3.10	2.90
Greece Dr	334.00	314.00
Hong Kong \$	14.10	13.10

South Africa Rd	5.65	4.85
Spain Pte	191.00	178.00
Sweden Kr	11.12	10.42
Switzerland Fr	2.625	2.455
Turkey Lira	7400.00	6800.00
USA \$	1.7025	1.702



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up to you. Are you going to throw Bangladesh a life line?

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

UN-UK

هكذا من الأصل



● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-30  
● WEEKEND MONEY 31-34  
● SPORT 36-40

MONEY

Mixed day for sterling

THE pound shrugged off the Monmouth by-election as hopes of an early cut in interest rates were dashed (Colin Narborough writes).

Sterling closed more than a penny higher at DM2.9756, after a peak of DM2.9850, but dropped nearly 3 cents to £1.7195. The dollar gained 3.6 pence to DM1.7290.

The American trade deficit shrank from \$5.3 billion in February to \$4 billion in March, the smallest for nearly eight years. Imports fell to their lowest in more than two years, while exports showed the third highest month on record.

Sweden's surprise decision to link its krona to the European currency unit prompted a rush into the American currency.

Hard cheese



Bob Clarke, the new chairman of United Biscuits, is not intending to grab the headlines by flinging cheese biscuits at the window of his merchant bank like his forefather, Lord Lister of Dunsford. But he quite probably harbours a secret ambition, writes Gillian Bowditch Page 27

Go green

Many motorists driving on the Continent wrongly think they have to buy a green card to be legally insured. All they are required to do is tell their insurer where they are going and for how long. Page 31

Home cover

Owners of second homes should not be tempted to insure their properties with local firms but should look instead for British companies with overseas branches, cautions the Consumers' Association. Page 31

Share options

ICI's 20,000 employees in seven at-you-earn share option schemes have the right to buy shares in the company at 40 per cent less than the soaring price generated by the Hanson share buying spree this week. Page 32

Risky loans

Borrowers with large mortgages will face higher indemnity premiums as insurers start to charge high-risk lenders with poor records on repossessions more for cover. Page 33

Your letters

The opt out charade



Bank of Scotland customers on variable rate mortgages will not benefit from the new 12.8 per cent rate until July, much to the chagrin of one Weekend Money reader. Page 34

Brent surprise

Brent Walker, the leisure group, surprised followers by announcing that it may expand its public houses and retail division. The company is expected to reveal huge annual losses on Monday. Page 26

Panel ruling leaves Hanson's options open for ICI bid

By MARTIN WALLER

THE takeover panel has cleared Hanson to bid for ICI if it wishes, after a raid on the shares this week left the cash-rich conglomerate with a 2.82 per cent stake.

The panel received an approach from an unknown party asking it for clarification of Wednesday's statement from Hanson that it had bought 20 million ICI shares "for investment purposes". The panel executive ruled "for the avoidance of doubt" that the statement "does not restrict Hanson's options for the purpose of the City code on takeovers and mergers".

Under the code, a statement that a po-

tential predator will not bid is regarded as binding. Hanson's words, however, were apparently regarded as sufficiently vague to avoid any such hindrance, an indication of the care Hanson is taking to keep its options open. On Thursday, Lord Hanson said any further comment on his intentions was "restricted by the legal position".

On the stock market, suggestions that Hanson might have trouble raising the funds to mount a frontal assault clipped the shares back by more than 30p before maturer reflection helped the price end 19p lower at £12.47. Suggestions that City banks might be unwilling to put up the cash

for a bid for fear of being dragged into a political storm and of alienating Britain's biggest manufacturer are regarded by both camps as being wide of the mark.

Lord Hanson is thought to have received approaches from a wide range of British and overseas banks offering the necessary lending facilities if required. Only the big clearing banks are likely to fight shy of any immediate involvement. Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds, is an ICI director, while Sir Denis Henderson, the ICI chairman, sits on the board of Barclays. Hanson would not comment last night. ICI was dusting down potential

defences at its Millbank headquarters, while maintaining a "business as usual" approach. Sir Denis told staff at one meeting: "ICI isn't so much a flagship of the British economy. It's a warship at the moment, ready to shoot."

One ICI source said: "If you've got a potential predator there, you make sure everything is tickety-boo and the right telephone numbers are in place."

ICI is dismissing suggestions that it might demerge one or more of its businesses to pre-empt a Hanson bid. It has set aside £300 million this financial year to cover restructuring, including disposals of

non-peripheral businesses, but admits that buyers are not easy to find.

A Hanson approach would have to surmount a number of regulatory hurdles. The government, aware that Hanson has provoked hostility from its own MPs, the Opposition and unions, has said it will scrutinise any bid, and a monopolies reference looks almost inevitable. There may be competition difficulties in America, while in Brussels, officials said it was almost inconceivable that the European Commission would not review such a big takeover.

Leading article, page 11

Underlying trend disappoints City

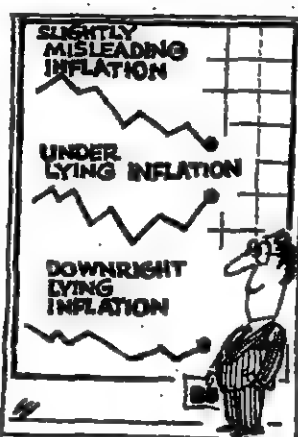
Inflation rate leaves no room for interest cut

By ANATOLE KALETSKY  
ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE City was disappointed by the eagerly awaited retail price index for April, which seemed to confirm the Bank of England's warnings that underlying inflation was not yet under control. Shortly after the figures were released, the Bank sent a strong signal to the money markets dispelling remaining hopes that interest rates might be cut next week.

While the headline inflation rate plunged to 6.4 per cent, from 8.2 per cent in March, the April figure failed to match the expectations of city analysts. Almost the whole of the improvement was due to the removal of last year's swinge, from rates to the community charge from the annual comparison. Looking ahead, the breakdown of the figures suggested that this year's rise in value-added tax from 15 to 17½ per cent may have given Britain's inflationary spiral another twist.

The government's new measure of underlying inflation, the RPI, excludes exclud-



ing mortgage interest payments, fell to 6.8 per cent in April, compared with 8.4 per cent the month before. But the old underlying rate, before the Treasury used to favour the Budget switch from community charge to VAT, rose sharply to 8.9 per cent from 7.3 per cent.

Government statisticians said this "old" underlying rate, which measures the prices paid by consumers for marketed goods and services, did not yet fully reflect the increase in VAT. They said VAT had raised April's RPI by only about 0.7 percentage points, with a further 0.4

points still to come. The implication was that last month's underlying inflation, excluding mortgage, community charge and VAT effects, was as high as 8.2 per cent.

The statisticians said there was evidence of retailers responding to the VAT rise by "rounding up" prices to boost profit margins. Sharp price increases last month for alcoholic drinks, tobacco, catering and leisure services were all due in part to this effect. Other retailers would follow suit in the coming months the officials said.

Peter Spencer, of Shearson Lehman Brothers, said: "These figures were pretty dreadful. There cannot be any possible excuse now for a cut in interest rates until some better statistics on underlying inflation come out."

Mr Spencer, a former Treasury official, calculates his own measure of inflation trends, which is widely followed in the city and is similar to one used internally by the Bank. This measure jumped from 5.6 per cent to 7.9 per cent as a result of yesterday's RPI figures. Mr Spencer added: "There is no way you could crack these numbers to suggest that underlying inflation is coming down."

Some analysts said the figures had justified the Bank's apparent opposition to further cuts in interest rates.

The pound strengthened against the Deutschmark, reflecting fading prospects of lower interest rates in Britain.

● The Public Sector Borrowing Requirement was £2.1 billion in April, below market expectations of around £2.7 billion, as the Treasury received proceeds of £1.1 billion from the sale of electricity shares. Excluding privatisation receipts, the PSBR was £3.2 billion.

Coats wins fight for Tootal

By OUR CITY STAFF

COATS Vytella, Britain's biggest textiles group, was celebrating victory in the acrimonious £252 million takeover battle for Tootal, its rival, two years after the companies began talks about a friendly merger.

Sir David Alliance, the chairman of Coats, and Neville Bain, the chief executive, met John Craven and Anthony Hagood, their counterparts at Tootal, yesterday morning at Savile Row, London, where Coats has its headquarters, to discuss the formal transfer of control of Tootal.

Tootal's fate was sealed on Thursday when Coats secured acceptances of 50.27 per cent of its target's voting rights and declared the offer unconditional. By the deadline, at 1pm yesterday, acceptances had been received in respect of 60.36 per cent.

Mr Bain said this week that the logic of the bid was beyond dispute and Coats believed it had paid a "very fair price".

Coats won control of Tootal for £143 million less than it agreed to pay in May 1989, with the support of Geoffrey Maddrell, who was then Tootal chief executive. The agreement, however, fell foul of the monopolies commission and the agreed bid lapsed.

Tootal turned down a £315 million informal offer in December 1989, but the real battle began in March when Coats went straight to shareholders with a 65p share cash offer, worth £194 million, which was rejected by the reconstituted Tootal board.

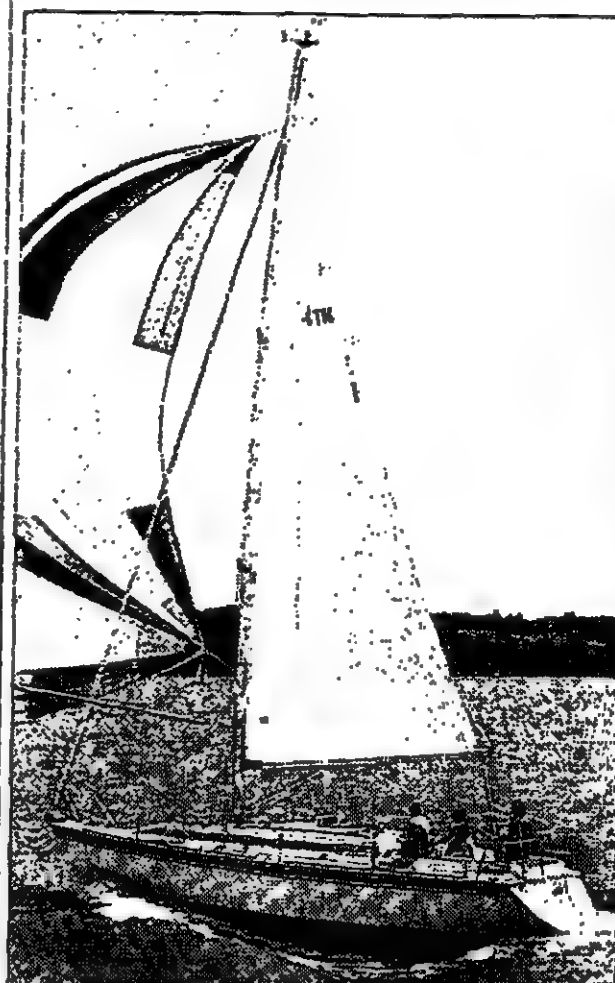
Despite a spirited campaign by Tootal, the odds were stacked in favour of Coats, which held a stake of more than 29 per cent. When the terms were increased to £252 million, there seemed little doubt about the outcome.

Textile analysts fear that the ill-felling on both sides as a consequence of allegations and counter-allegations made during the course of the bid, may handicap the victor's ability to complete a speedy integration.

Tootal, which generates sales of £525 million a year, employs 15,000 people, only half of whom work in Britain.

To achieve the cost savings outlined during the bid, Coats must merge the administrative departments quickly and rationalise manufacturing capacity spread across more than 40 countries.

Another urgent task must be to address customers' reluctance to deal with such a large player, particularly in clothing. It is estimated that the enlarged company's share of Marks and Spencer's requirement for some men's and women's garments will exceed 50 per cent, prompting fears that M&S will redistribute at least part of Tootal's share among other suppliers.



Choppy seas: Westerly Typhoon, unveiled last year

Westerly Yachts stops production

By PHILIP FANGALOS

WESTERLY, one of the most famous names in yachting, has closed down yacht production at its Westerly Yachts subsidiary in Hampshire.

The company said the closure decision was made in the wake of the extremely difficult economic conditions in recent months and the lack of orders after the increase in value-added tax to 17.5 per cent.

Westerly said that consideration may be given to restarting production "as and

when market conditions improve". Westerly Yachts incurred a trading loss, before extraordinary and exceptional items, of £364,000 in the year to end December, on turnover of £12.1 million.

Westerly said that the group's other businesses are trading satisfactorily.

As a result of the closure, the accounts for the year to end December are now unlikely to be available before the end of June.

Mercury fund managers fined

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

MERCURY Asset Management, Britain's biggest fund management company, has been fined £50,000 by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation for not complying with the rules on client bank accounts.

Mercury, which is the fund management arm of SG Warburg, has more than £30 billion under management. It admitted that from April 19, 1988, until last June, it failed to reconcile fully the client bank accounts for the personal equity plans under its management. These are part of Mercury Fund Managers, headed by James Dawney.

The firm, which has £39.8 million worth of tax-free Peps under management, will also have to pay up to £25,000 in costs. Mercury is the second company to be publicly disciplined by the regulator.

About 60 companies are being investigated by Imro and up to a third are expected to face disciplinary proceedings. John Morgan, chief executive, said the investigation committee was signalling that it was necessary for organisations in the retail area to be certain of the strength of their administration systems.

A spokesman for Mercury said: "We regret that we did not fully comply with the rules. This was an inadvertent breach of the rules. We have taken all the steps necessary and at no time were the funds of investors at risk." Mercury would not be appealing.

Imro said the auditors had confirmed that Mercury had taken all necessary steps to rectify the errors in its records, and that investors' funds had not been put at risk. Mercury said it would not appeal against the size of the fine.

Mercantile Credit jobs go

By JON ASHWORTH

MERCANTILE Credit, the consumer finance arm of Barclays Bank, is to lose 470 jobs. The bank is to close 22 branches and will concentrate operations in Manchester.

About 130 staff are being transferred to GE Capital, the financial services arm of General Electric, which is buying six of Mercantile Credit's branches to provide car loans. The deal, involving assets of close to £260 million, should be completed next month.

The move is part of a general drive by the Barclays group to cut costs. Mercantile Credit said the cost of running

a large branch network had proved "quite a drain" and it made sense to pull services together under one roof.

The Mercantile group of companies saw profits plunge from £51 million in 1989 to £2 million last year. The fall was blamed on increased provision for bad and doubtful debts. It was announced then that the consumer lending division would be sold.

Personal loan business is to be centralised in Manchester as a direct mail operation. Barclays Mercantile Business Finance, the leasing arm, continues to be based in

Basingstoke, Hampshire. The headquarters was severely damaged by a fire in April. Mercantile Credit will continue to employ 670 staff, split between Churchill Plaza in Basingstoke, a customer centre in Manchester, and a computer centre in Colindale, North London.

GE Capital has built up a strong financial services base in Britain, ranging for property financing to aircraft and container leasing. Ed Stewart, the head of the car loans division, said the latest acquisition would strengthen the company's position.

Home repossessions to double

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE number of homes being repossessed and offered for sale by banks and building societies is likely to almost double by the end of this year, delaying the recovery of the housing market, lenders have said.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders said yesterday that it expected its next set of repossession figures, due in August, to show a continuing upward trend, despite the beginnings of a market upturn prompted by cuts in mortgage rates. Lenders said they were still finding it difficult to sell repossessed properties. Rising unemployment would also hold back recovery, the council predicted.

A council spokeswoman said: "We will probably see another set of worse figures before things start to get better. There is inevitably going to be a backlog

The problems are directly attributable to the abolition of double tax relief in 1988 and the rises in interest rates." She denied that lax lending criteria had contributed to the record numbers of repossessions.

Last year, 43,890 properties were repossessed, nearly three times more than in 1989, according to CML figures.

David Gilchrist, general manager of Halifax building society, the largest lender, said the repossession trend was still upwards. He said: "Repossessions are a lagging indicator. We need a pick-up in housing activity first before there is a fall. People need to sell themselves out of a problem, now building societies and banks have to do it for them."

Abbey National, the second-largest mortgage lender, said the number of properties put on the market by lenders

was not that significant as a proportion of an expected turnover of one million homes this year. John Bayliss, the managing director, said that Abbey's repossession figures had fallen from a high in March and he expected the trend to continue. He added: "There have been more encouraging signs in the last month than in the last two years. I expect voluntary repossessions to drop markedly as the housing market picks up. We hope that arrears will soon start levelling off."

Halifax and Abbey National both predicted house price rises of up to 5 per cent by the end of the year.

Both lenders said their estate agency networks were receiving more enquiries and that turnover would probably increase 20 per cent at the end of the year.

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# Unassuming Englishman who took the biscuit

**BUSINESS PROFILE**  
By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

**Bob Clarke**

**Succeeding Lord Laing at the helm of United Biscuits is not an easy task, even if years have been spent being groomed for the top job**

Men who would be kings, small powers behind great thrones, are often doomed to disappointment. The transition from chief counsellor to sovereign is not an easy one and few have made it successfully. Bob Clarke, chairman of United Biscuits and successor to Lord Laing of Dumfries, is one businessman who, after years in waiting, has apparently done so painlessly. But the succession is only half the battle, as Clarke is so keenly aware. The problem now is to stamp his mark on a business that in addition to being Britain's largest manufacturer of biscuits, with McVitie's, Carr and Crawford's, is still remembered in some quarters as Lord Laing's family company.

Lord Laing is not an easy act to follow. Bob Clarke is likely to shy away from the sweeping gesture and the colourful quote that characterised the chairmanship of UB until Lord Laing's departure a year ago. The new chairman, a quiet, unassuming Englishman, will not be seen throwing rivals' cheese biscuits out of his merchant bank's window, as his predecessor once did. But neither will he throw the baby out with the bathwater.

He sees himself as a caretaker chairman of the company, which includes brands such as Hobnobs, KP nuts, Hula Hoops and Terry's chocolates, straddling the old and the new generation, headed by Eric Nicoli, aged 40, the chief executive. "My role in the company now is to be the pivot between the best of the past and the best of the future," says Clarke. Others see him as Lord Laing's loyal lieutenant, destined always to be no more than a shadow of a great man.

But it is easy to underestimate Clarke. He is an approachable man, small, with a round, cheerful face. He may lack poise and sophistication but he has not disguised this shortcoming by shrouding himself in pomposity, as many in his position would have done. Sir Adrian Cadbury, with whom Clarke worked for 20 years at Cadbury Schweppes, says Clarke is a good man manager. "He's tremendously enthusiastic and has enormous drive. He understands human nature and combines it with creativity. He has the ability to lead people. When he was working at Cadbury, people liked and respected him."

Clarke is a great believer in learning from the past. He studied history at Oxford, shortly after the war, and is still keen on the subject. "I was particularly interested in medieval and Tudor history. The power struggles of those days have a lot in common with what happens in modern business," he says.

It is possible to see him as a type of benign Cardinal Wolsey, smoothing paths and oiling wheels, amassing power but rarely overstepping the mark, serving long and well, a clever, if unlikely, politician. Lord Laing says: "He is a

subtle manipulator behind the scenes and he is a diplomat. I am very hands-on and direct, and he stands back and is more intelligent. I am very forthright and he can take a long time to say little.

"I am thrilled that it has all gone so smoothly. I have handed over the reins and there hasn't been so much as a ripple. Every penny I have invested in this business and it was important that I handed over to someone I totally trusted. He is a long-term thinker and he is someone in whom I have total confidence."

The respect is mutual. Clarke says it was Lord Laing who enticed him into United Biscuits. "He may have had his eye on me even then as a possible successor," says Clarke. "He saw more in me than many others did. He was an inspirational leader. He's the sort of man you will do anything for 80 per cent of the time. The rest of the time you could kill him."

Lord Laing says cheerfully: "I think the percentage of time he could have throttled me is likely to have been higher."

It is surprising to hear colleagues say that Clarke is tough, but they all do. It is difficult to imagine him shutting a factory or firing a long-standing employee.

"He is so nice you don't see the knife coming," is a phrase that has been used of him. Clarke laughs, but does not disagree. "There are times when the knife has to come," he says.

"You have to be on the level. No one, unless he or she is a sadist, enjoys doing that sort of thing. But it has to be done." Lynne, his wife, says the secret of his success is that he gets on extremely well with different people.

"He treats people with equal dignity, whether they are Prince Charles or the Thomas Hardy figure in our village. I don't think he has ever been overly ambitious but when opportunities have opened up he has grasped the nettle with great enthusiasm," Clarke says. He first realised that he could go all the way to the top in UB about ten years ago. "I realised that the chairmanship should be on if I was up to it. I was a late developer. A lot of these things depend on luck and age and you need a large element of luck."

"I don't willingly work for people who have less to offer than me. I've looked at contenders along the line and thought I'm better than him."

He describes himself as a typical product of the meritocracy. "I had a very conventional, middle class, staid,



Best friends: Bob Clarke with Lynne, his wife, on their Oxfordshire farm. His approach to dealing with stress is to do some bricklaying

English upbringing," he says. He was born in southeast London on March 28, 1929, and grew up on only child.

His father, a civil servant with a businessman's brain, encouraged him to go into industry. "He would have been a better businessman than me I suspect. He had drive, energy and enthusiasm," Clarke says. He attended Dulwich College and boarded during the war while his father was in the Middle East. "We slept down in the cellars of the school and we used to hope the school would be bombed in the night. It was on three occasions and we were sent home for three weeks at a time, while they replaced all the windows."

School was followed by an MA in history at Pembroke College, Oxford, where he played football and rugby six or seven days a week and enjoyed plenty of socialising. While he was at Oxford, he met Lynne, a nurse at the Radcliffe Infirmary. "That took up a great deal of time," he says. "Any success I have had in life I would attribute to her. She is my best friend as well as my wife and I guess I've been lucky in that respect."

Clarke has worked for only two companies, Cadbury Schweppes and United Biscuits. He joined Cadbury after two years' national service with the Royal West Kent Regiment, which he describes as an "extension of school but a bit softer". He identified

with the Quaker principles on which Cadbury was based, and started a training in marketing. "Before the war, advertising was the up and coming thing," he says. "In my generation it was marketing. Then it was accountancy, then the law and then the City."

By 1962 he was managing director of Cadbury Cakes. Sir Adrian Cadbury remembers that there was a problem motivating the driver delivery men. "It wasn't seen as a very good job. Then Bob hit upon the idea of giving them all a really smart uniform with a purple bow-tie, which boosted their morale."

"It was typical of his understanding of human nature," says Sir Adrian. By the early Seventies there was a more difficult decision to make than the colour of the corporate bow-tie.

Clarke had come to a crossroads in his career. Cadbury Cakes had merged with McVitie's, UB's cake business. The operation was subsequently sold and Clarke was invited to join UB. Cadbury wanted him to stay. "It was a difficult decision. There was some element of having a greater opportunity in UB. I don't think I thought it through as carefully as all that. It just felt right," he says.

The paternalistic nature of UB, which was similar to Cadbury in many ways, also appealed to Clarke. Lord Laing says: "He truly believes in the ethics of UB. He's a strong family man who has been happily married to the same woman for almost 40 years. Not that that counts for anything these days."

His progression within UB was steady. By 1977 he was managing director of the biscuit business and seven years

later he was on the board of the main holding company. The chief executive post came two years later.

Although no one would dispute the achievements wrought at UB over the past 20 years, its image in the City has not always been that of a top performer.

The charge that in the past five years the group has an uneven earnings record and shares that have done nothing against the market is one that Clarke would not dispute.

"It's not an unfair comment. UB has spent all its time thinking about the development of the business over the next ten years and it hasn't taken into account the needs of the institutional shareholders. We have to be more responsive to issues like earnings per share than we have

been in the past." This lesson was learned painfully in 1986 when the group launched a £2.5 billion bid for Imperial Group, the food, tobacco and brewing business. The bitter takeover battle was eventually won by Lord Hanson.

Clarke says: "We grew up as a result of losing to Hanson. Hector [Lord Laing] and I went out to the institutions and we said we were going to build this great British food company. Hanson went out and said 'I can make this company perform' and the City chose that. We learned that the great visions of the future are all very well but if you don't get short-term performance no one is going to back you."

"If it ever came up again we would be up to it. It hasn't yet, but losing Imperial hasn't put

us off. We would have to be more receptive to shareholders' immediate needs next time. Hanson understood that."

If UB had won the bid it would have created a food empire akin to Philip Morris or Kraft. That still remains the group's long-term goal but Clarke is coy as to whether it will take place during his reign. He retires as chairman in five years. One suspects this caretaker chairman harbours a secret ambition to achieve what Lord Laing could not.

In the meantime, smaller continental companies have been bought. "I would be disappointed if we didn't bring in 25 per cent of our business from Europe within five years," he says. Politics has never interested him. But he is quick to defend

UB's £112,000 contribution to the Conservative party. "We happened to believe that the policies which the Conservatives promote are good for freedom in business. We believe that people should back what they believe in."

He has a Churchillian approach to dealing with stress: bricklaying. His farmhouse in Oxfordshire, which he returns to nightly, is centuries old and he and his wife have completely renovated it. They are now working on the outbuildings.

"He is happiest when he is wheeling a barrow full of cement," says Lynne. "He is good at coping with stress. We have a swimming pool in a converted barn and when he comes home in the evening he will quite often swim up and down and talk to me."

His other passions include theatre, opera, travelling in France and planting trees. "Cutting the lawn or doing the garden bores me. Fixing things or creating things interests me. I think all men or women should do some sort of physical labour," he says.

Two of his four children work for UB. Jonathan, age 35, and Benedict, age 25, have followed their father into marketing. His other son, Tristan, Jonathan's twin, works for De Beers and his daughter Anna, age 21, is studying philosophy at Southampton university.

His wife says that while he has been a good father, the job has always come before the family. "He rarely gets mad but when he does all hell breaks loose," she says.

"I would rather be remembered for the things I did, rather than the things I didn't do; sins of commission rather than omission," says Clarke. He is most proud of the acquisition of Terry's, the chocolate company, that he wooed away from Colgate Palmolive.

But many see his greatest achievement in easing the forthright Lord Laing off the UB board without any obvious trauma. "He is life president of UB but he is not involved in the decision making," says Clarke.

"He has an office within UB and I see him about once a week. He is pleased when we tell him about the business but he never criticises."

"He's come to terms with it much better than anyone would think a man of his background, strength and abilities would ever do. It is a remarkable achievement, on his part," says the ever diplomatic Clarke.

*'I don't willingly work for people who have less to offer than me. I've looked at contenders along the line and thought I'm better than him'*

## Unilever keeps its head up

UNILEVER has come through the first quarter of what promises to be a difficult year with its head up, and profits to end March modestly ahead at £372 million.

The trick now is to ensure it stays on top of the recession snapping at its heels in various markets. Spending on marketing in North America is to be increased so Unilever can continue to "fight its corner".

Adjusting for acquisitions and disposals, first-quarter sales rose 4 per cent, but the geographical mix, like that of the mix of operating profit, shows some market areas are weaker than others.

Europe remains the powerhouse, where operating margins rose to 9.5 per cent (8.7 per cent), but there is disappointment with North America where margins fell to 0.97 per cent (5.47 per cent) as a consequence of recession and the Gulf war.

Sir Michael Angus, chairman, told the annual meeting last week that life is going to remain tough this year, so analysts look for no more than unexciting year-on-year pre-tax profits growth, perhaps to £1.83 billion or £1.88 billion



Facing a tough year: Sir Michael Angus of Unilever

(£1.78 billion). A real profits surge is thus needed before the shares, currently at 724p, trading on 11.9 times earnings, make much headway against the market.

But then Hanson and its ICI stake means that no share is immune from unbundling or takeover thoughts, though Unilever (current market capitalisation £3.5 billion) is jointly Anglo- and Dutch owned. That will make would-be bidders think twice. Individual American investors, meanwhile, remain keen on Unilever,

with their presence on the Dutch register of late up from 16 per cent to 24 per cent.

### Ulster TV

Ulster Television may be one of the smallest of the ITV contractors but, like its counterpart in Scotland, a heavy emphasis on regional output has resulted in the sort of audience loyalty that other ITV companies can only envy.

Whether that loyalty is enough to enable UTV to retain its franchise is not clear.

As John McGuckian, the chairman, says, the licence application process - the first stage of which was completed last Wednesday - contains a large element of chance.

However, UTV has done all it can to reduce that element of risk. It finished last year with cash balances of £5.5 million, slightly down on 1989, but still enough to provide a sound base for the hard cash part of the licence application.

Yet the 8.5 per cent downturn in the first quarter suggests that UTV is at the sharp end of this year's recession. Pre-tax profits in the year to end December were £1.9 million, compared with the £4.6 million made in a 17-month period ending December 1989. The final dividend was increased to 3.75p (2.5p), although the total payout was reduced to 6.75p (8.5p), reflecting the shorter accounting period.

There will have to be a significant upturn in the second half to enable the company to match last year's profits. Given that uncertainty, but assuming the company retains its long-held licence, the shares at 152p look fairly valued.

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## MONEY MARKETS

ended with 1985 was down at 91.8 (day's range 91.8-92.1).

DOLLAR RATES		OTHER STERLING RATES		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
1 month	3 month	Argentine austral*	1709.95-1714.27	Ireland	1.9700-1.9715
0.87-0.885p	0.91-0.925p	Australian dollar	2.2125-2.2218	Singapore	1.7705-1.7715
0.89-0.904p	0.93-0.939p	Belgian franc	0.655-0.658	Malaysia	2.7572-2.7582
2.15p	2.15p	Brazil cruzeiro	47.32-47.47	Netherlands	1.9791-1.9779
10-13p	42-30p	Cyprus pound	0.8075-0.8175	Canada	1.1502-1.1507
25-14p	6N-34p	Finland markka	0.9325-0.9335	Sweden	0.1225-0.1237
17-12p	54-30p	France drachme	32.65-32.65	Switzerland	0.8475-0.8505
58-31p	51p-20p	Hong Kong dollar	13.5477-13.5573	Germany	0.8222-0.8252
17-12p	54-30p	India rupee	35.46-35.58	W Germany	1.7030-1.7050
20-14p	42-30p	Kenya shilling (K)	1.00-1.00	Austria	1.4485-1.4491
20-14p	42-30p	Malaysia ringgit	4.7360-4.7390	Netherlands	1.9220-1.9210
20-14p	42-30p	Mexico peso	2.1915-2.1925	France	0.7825-0.7835
20-14p	42-30p	New Zealand dollar	4.75-4.74	Italy	1.125-1.125
20-14p	42-30p	Saudi Arabian riyal	0.495-0.505	Japan	1.0890-1.0700
20-14p	42-30p	Singapore dollar	3.0767-3.0767	Spain (Pta)	165.15-165.25
20-14p	42-30p	S Africa rand	5.8075-5.7085	Hong Kong	7.7867-7.7885
48-35p	12N-100p	S Africa rand (cont)	4.8257-4.8410	Portugal	148.85-148.85
%-10p	24p-4p	U.S.A. & Canada	0.65-0.65	Switzerland	1.155-1.155
m = per, cent = dk.		Switzerland Rand 075 = 10p			

**STRENGTHENING BILLS:** 260p; £1,000 about £500; Dec: 527, 500; 1985: 527, 500; 1986: 527, 500; 1987: 527, 500; 1988: 527, 500; 1989: 527, 500; 1990: 527, 500; 1991: 527, 500; 1992: 527, 500; 1993: 527, 500; 1994: 527, 500; 1995: 527, 500; 1996: 527, 500; 1997: 527, 500; 1998: 527, 500; 1999: 527, 500; 2000: 527, 500; 2001: 527, 500; 2002: 527, 500; 2003: 527, 500; 2004: 527, 500; 2005: 527, 500; 2006: 527, 500; 2007: 527, 500; 2008: 527, 500; 2009: 527, 500; 2010: 527, 500; 2011: 527, 500; 2012: 527, 500; 2013: 527, 500; 2014: 527, 500; 2015: 527, 500; 2016: 527, 500; 2017: 527, 500; 2018: 527, 500; 2019: 527, 500; 2020: 527, 500; 2021: 527, 500; 2022: 527, 500; 2023: 527, 500; 2024: 527, 500; 2025: 527, 500; 2026: 527, 500; 2027: 527, 500; 2028: 527, 500; 2029: 527, 500; 2030: 527, 500; 2031: 527, 500; 2032: 527, 500; 2033: 527, 500; 2034: 527, 500; 2035: 527, 500; 2036: 527, 500; 2037: 527, 500; 2038: 527, 500; 2039: 527, 500; 2040: 527, 500; 2041: 527, 500; 2042: 527, 500; 2043: 527, 500; 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## Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Waters Water	Water	
2	Nichols (NZ) (Vint)	Food	
3	Island Power	Food	
4	Ray (Norman)	Industrial S-Z	
5	Silhouette	Industrial S-Z	
6	Callers	Food	
7	Robinson (Thomas)	Industrial L-R	
8	Prigmore	Property	
9	Thames F.	Home Comm	
10	Carle Comm	Leisure	
11	Vint	Industrial S-Z	
12	Parrell Rice	Electrical	
13	Vint	Industrial S-Z	
14	Dunhill	Drugs Stores	
15	Yale Otto	Chemicals	
16	NPC	Transport	
17	Elliot (B)	Industrial S-Z	
18	Callford	Building Roads	
19	Bathwater	Industrial A-D	
20	Ford Earth Ties	Drugs Stores	
21	Lawrence (Walter)	Building Roads	
22	BCC Group	Industrial S-Z	
23	Rockwell Op	Electrical	
24	Cook (Wm)	Industrial A-D	
25	Boothby	Building Roads	
26	Tibber & Britton	Transport	
27	BAT	Tobacco	
28	Nim Foods	Food	
29	Woodside	Oil Gas	
30	Usher Walker	Paper Print Adv	
31	Jardine Math	Industrial E-K	
32	Sainsbury J	Food	
33	General	Electrical	
34	Community Hospital	Industrial A-D	
35	Albion	Industrial A-D	
36	Bepak	Industrial A-D	
37	Color Op	Oil Gas	
38	Free Art Dev	Drugs Stores	
39	Ranger	Oil Gas	
40	Tosol	Textiles	
41	Oliver (G)	Drugs Stores	
42	Bowater	Industrial A-D	
43	Anyall	Food	
44	Anyall	Food	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend  
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Dividend							

Two readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr John Yates Williams, of Leatherhead, Surrey, and Mrs I E Crook, of Chantlers Ford, Hampshire, each receive £1,000.

## BRITISH FUNDS

1991 High Low Company Price Div Yield %

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	Price	Div	Yield %
1	100.00	1.00	1.00
2	100.00	1.00	1.00
3	100.00	1.00	1.00
4	100.00	1.00	1.00
5	100.00	1.00	1.00
6	100.00	1.00	1.00
7	100.00	1.00	1.00
8	100.00	1.00	1.00
9	100.00	1.00	1.00
10	100.00	1.00	1.00

## FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Div	Yield %
1	100.00	1.00	1.00
2	100.00	1.00	1.00
3	100.00	1.00	1.00
4	100.00	1.00	1.00
5	100.00	1.00	1.00
6	100.00	1.00	1.00
7	100.00	1.00	1.00
8	100.00	1.00	1.00
9	100.00	1.00	1.00
10	100.00	1.00	1.00

## OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Div	Yield %
1	100.00	1.00	1.00
2	100.00	1.00	1.00
3	100.00	1.00	1.00
4	100.00	1.00	1.00
5	100.00	1.00	1.00
6	100.00	1.00	1.00
7	100.00	1.00	1.00
8	100.00	1.00	1.00
9	100.00	1.00	1.00
10	100.00	1.00	1.00

## UNDATED

Company	Price	Div	Yield %
1	100.00	1.00	1.00
2	100.00	1.00	1.00
3	100.00	1.00	1.00
4	100.00	1.00	1.00
5	100.00	1.00	1.00
6	100.00	1.00	1.00
7	100.00	1.00	1.00
8	100.00	1.00	1.00
9	100.00	1.00	1.00
10	100.00	1.00	1.00

## INDEX-LINKED

Company	Price	Div	Yield %
1	100.00	1.00	1.00
2	100.00	1.00	1.00
3	100.00	1.00	1.00
4	100.00	1.00	1.00
5	100.00	1.00	1.00
6	100.00	1.00	1.00
7	100.00	1.00	1.00
8	100.00	1.00	1.00
9	100.00	1.00	1.00
10	100.00	1.00	1.00

## BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Company	Price	Div	Yield %
1	100.00	1.00	1.00
2	100.00	1.00	1.00
3	100.00	1.00	1.00
4	100.00	1.00	1.00
5	100.00	1.00	1.00
6	100.00	1.00	1.00
7	100.00	1.00	1.00
8	100.00	1.00	1.00
9	100.00	1.00	1.00
10	100.00	1.00	1.00

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Shares suffer small losses

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 29. Dealings ended yesterday. Contango day Monday. Settlement day May 28.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
1	Waters Water	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
2	Nichols (NZ) (Vint)	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
3	Island Power	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
4	Ray (Norman)	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
5	Silhouette	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
6	Callers	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
7	Robinson (Thomas)	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
8	Prigmore	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
9	Thames F.	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
10	Carle Comm	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
11	Vint	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
12	Parrell Rice	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
13	Vint	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
14	Dunhill	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
15	Yale Otto	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
16	NPC	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
17	Elliot (B)	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
18	Callford	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
19	Bathwater	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
20	Ford Earth Ties	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
21	Lawrence (Walter)	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
22	BCC Group	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
23	Rockwell Op	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
24	Cook (Wm)	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
25	Boothby	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
26	Tibber & Britton	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
27	BAT	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
28	Nim Foods	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
29	Woodside	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
30	Usher Walker	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
31	Jardine Math	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
32	Sainsbury J	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
33	General	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
34	Community Hospital	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
35	Albion	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
36	Bepak	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
37	Color Op	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
38	Free Art Dev	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
39	Ranger	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
40	Tosol	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
41	Oliver (G)	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
42	Bowater	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
43	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
44	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
45	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
46	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
47	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
48	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
49	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
50	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
51	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
52	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
53	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
54	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
55	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
56	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
57	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
58	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
59	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
60	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
61	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
62	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
63	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
64	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
65	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
66	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
67	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
68	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
69	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
70	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
71	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
72	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
73	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
74	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
75	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
76	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
77	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
78	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
79	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
80	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

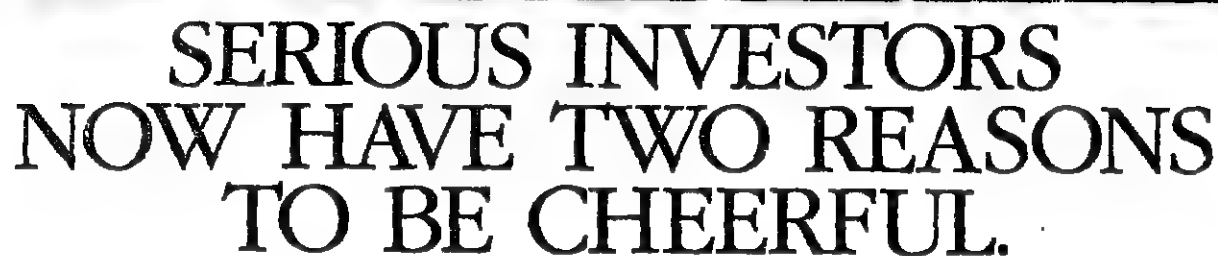
No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
81	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
82	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
83	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
84	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
85	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
86	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
87	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
88	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
89	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
90	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %	P/E
91	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
92	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
93	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
94	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
95	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00
96	Anyall	100.00	1.00	1.00	10.00

No.	Company	Price	Div	Yield %
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## INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

*Figures supplied by Day's Choice Ltd Telephone 0753 885442.*

[illegible]

**The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading**



- SHARE OPTION SCHEMES 32
- MORTGAGE INDEMNITY RISE 33
- LITTERS 34

## Banks must heed the ombudsman



### COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

It is about time the banks started listening to their ombudsman. Laurence Shurman knows how unpopular they really are. He deals with the complaints from their customers. He has suggested ways of improving security and reducing losses from stolen cheques and intercepted bank cards. These have been ignored. He has made a submission on the proposed banking code, which he detailed in a speech to bankers this week. They ignore this at their peril.

First of all, he wants the code to state explicitly that banks have a duty to act fairly in all circumstances. This would reassure the many customers who suspect the opposite is true. The banks need to produce easily understood terms and conditions in print large enough to be decipherable without a magnifying glass. When they wait to change those terms they should give at least 30 days notice, says Mr Shurman. Providing a tariff once when the account is opened is not

enough. The ombudsman does not only support customers who want to know what charges are to be levied before the money is taken from the account, he also wants banks to notify customers of the penal rates of interest for unauthorised overdrafts before taking the money. While British banks maintain they cannot provide both cleared and uncleared balances on statements to help customers avoid charges, one British bank already does so in Kenya, Mr Shurman points out. Confidentiality concerns many customers. They do not want their names handed over to investment companies within a bank, on lists of people with enough money to be interested in their products. The banks have always maintained that customers could always say they did not want any information passing on.

Mr Shurman believes customers may feel forced to give permission when they do not want to. This is often requested when customers are asking for a loan and they fear a refusal might put it in jeopardy. A lot of work will have to be done to persuade customers that salesmen are not being unfairly primed with information to make it easy to sell investments. Too often they find that an inheritance or other piece of good luck is followed up by a letter or call from a salesman. Mr Shurman says he is neither

on the side of the banks nor the customers. But he does have an interest in the code. If it works the number of complaints being passed on to his office will fall. Pension scheme members, fed up with being left in the dark, will have given a hollow cheer to the Chancellor, Norman Lamont, this week when he called upon pension funds to keep members informed of the value of their stake. Too many

people cannot find out how much their pension is worth, how it is invested or how much they will be able to transfer to another scheme when they move jobs. Because they are not the direct clients of insurance companies or other pension fund managers they are refused information. Weekend Money frequently hears from readers who are desperate for details of their pension entitlements. They argue that the money is theirs and they want an answer in order to plan their financial affairs. Sometimes they are afraid that their employer is not handing over the contributions to the pension scheme, and that if the firm fails they will be left high and dry behind secured creditors. Such cases are fortunately fairly rare. More often, people want to obtain some information about their pension and are left waiting months. This week, the managing director of a financial services company said that he had been trying to get information about how much his own part of his company's pension scheme is worth. So far he has failed. If he cannot get information, what chance has anyone else? His pension is a money purchase scheme with all the contributions being made by the employer. The scheme was arranged by one of the biggest brokers in the country and the money is managed by one of the largest insurance companies with a good investment track record. It seems, however, that neither have time for the administrative nuisance of providing information to individuals. The managing director says that he is determined to obtain an answer. If the money, which is part of his salary package, had been invested directly in unit trusts or some other insurance product he would expect to receive a reply straightaway.

## Motorists lose way in green card 'minefield'

Drivers still pay for proof of insurance on trips to Europe despite legal changes, report Liz Dolan



ONE million motorists still strain themselves with a green card before taking their cars on the Continent, in spite of being able to drive quite legally through most of Europe without one. Some are still under the mistaken impression that they cannot venture overseas without a green card as proof of insurance. Others are aware that the card is not a legal necessity, but erroneously believe that motorists who travel without one are only entitled to the minimum cover required by the country in which they are travelling, even if they have comprehensive insurance in Britain. This is not the case. Strictly speaking, motorists are required simply to tell the insurer where they are going and for how long. The same level of cover they enjoy in Britain is then automatically extended to the rest of Europe — subject to a yearly maximum number of days. The green card is a useful, but by no means obligatory, extra symbol to the European authorities that the driver is properly insured. However, this misconception is not exactly discouraged by the insurance industry, which tends to view the sum charged by most insurers for a green card as payment for the extra risk it takes on when the insured ventures abroad. The whole subject is "a little bit of a minefield," said Roger Snook, claims manager of the Motor Insurers Bureau (MIB), the body responsible for administering green cards. "It's a difficult area, further complicated by the fact that

Europe-bound motorists simply have to tell insurers. British insurers have traditionally used the green card as an endorsement of the extension of cover," he said. The situation is currently the subject of a hot debate within the industry. The two opposing views are both based on the fact that less than 5 per cent of Britain's 24 million drivers take their cars abroad each year. One side says that, because so few policyholders ever demand the extra benefit, they should be charged extra for the privilege. The other side considers that insurers should be able to absorb the additional costs involved precisely because so few policyholders are involved. The debate has yet to

be resolved. Green cards tend to be suggested automatically by the policyholder's broker or insurance company. "I think it's fair to say that they are often sold through brokers who may themselves not quite understand what the situation is," said Mr Snook. "But motor insurance is so competitive that insurers won't change more than they have to." So, although policyholders are legally entitled simply to inform their insurer of their plans, not all companies are happy to let the matter rest there. Legal & General (L&G), for instance, said it would be unwilling to extend cover without issuing a card. "It is evidence that we have ac-

knowledge that they are going abroad," said David Lester, the marketing manager of the general insurance division. The company's reluctance, however, to extend cover without selling the card may also be due to the fact that L&G's green card charges vary depending on the length of time the policyholder plans to be away. Two weeks in France, for instance, costs between £20 and £25, depending on the car, and then £4 a week for up to three months. A green card is therefore payment for extended cover. General Accident (GA) said that it would extend cover on notification only, but "we would still advise taking a green card for practical reasons". As from November 1 last year, GA decided to issue cards free for up to 45 days, then £15 for each extra 15-day period up to 90 days. Norwich Union decided to follow suit at the beginning of May. NU policyholders now receive five weeks' free use of the card. The Automobile Association (AA), whose cards are also free and last for 45 days, considered that, on balance, it was still a good idea to carry a green card. "It is already well-known throughout Europe," a spokesman pointed out. "It is an internationally recognised insurance certificate that saves time and trouble when tempers are already raised and communication is difficult." Paul Mason, head of the MIB's green card section agreed. "Muttering about EC regulations isn't necessarily a lot of use in rural Greece," he said. The green card is recognised throughout Europe, as well as Tunisia, Iran and Iraq. Insurers may impose additional restrictions on policyholders travelling abroad. Few companies allow the insured to drive other people's cars outside the UK, a point worth remembering for people holidaying with friends. Some will also impose higher excess levels, or tougher age limits.

### Costa premium rates match London's

THE Spanish resort of Marbella is the only town on the Continent whose property insurance rates are as high as those asked from people living in London (Liz Dolan writes). "We don't know why the claims experience is so bad there, but it must be something to do with the sort of people who live there," said David Cornwell, a director of Andrew Copeland, the London insurance broker that specialises in insuring second homes on the Continent for British nationals. Premiums for second homes elsewhere, even cities such as Paris or Madrid, are lower than for first homes in London, in spite of the fact that the property possibly being unoccupied for long periods. Malaga homeowners cannot escape the problem by insuring locally, where rates are just as high. In any case, insuring with a local company outside Britain is not a good idea, cautions Jean Eaglesham, of the Consumers' Association, because policyholders would be forfeiting the protection of British consumer law. Insuring with a British company with a local branch is

## Foreign policies forfeit care of UK law

probably best. Most main United Kingdom insurers are represented on the Continent. Legal & General has branches in every west European country except France. General Accident is in France, Belgium, Germany, and Italy and has just set up in Spain. Homespan Spanish and Italian policies can demand up to one year's notice, which means remembering to cancel next year's policy while paying the renewal premium for the coming year — or risk paying a whole year's premium for a home that has been sold, or

subsequently insured with another company. Working out sums insured as a percentage of the total risk is also common: 15 per cent allocated to theft, 10 per cent to burst pipes and so on. About 75 per cent of Andrew Copeland's second homes business is in Spain and Portugal, but demand for policies in France has risen "substantially" in the past 18 months and now accounts for 10 per cent of the business. Similar services are also being offered by Holiday Insurance Services (Homes) of Romford, Essex, and Mason & Mason of Wilmalaw, Cheshire. People who want to use their own cars for frequent trips between Britain and a continental second home will have to renegotiate with their motor brokers because, as one insurer put it, "Driving conditions in, say, Guildford are not the same as, say, Rome." Premiums had to be adapted accordingly. Some people buy "bangers" that they insure to the minimum local standards, and then leave their more expensive models behind in Britain.

## How to treat a debtor

By LINDSAY COOK

DEBT collectors have a new set of rules to guide the way they handle borrowers who are behind with their payments. The Credit Services Association, which represents professional debt collectors and the credit reporting industry, launched its code of practice yesterday. The code, endorsed by the Office of Fair Trading, states that debt collectors should not use oppressive or intrusive collection procedures. Nor should they act in a manner in public intended to embarrass the debtor. When visiting a debtor, or attempting to contact one by telephone, collectors should be "circumspect and discreet." The debt should not be discussed with neighbours, relatives or employers. Collectors should not use "improper means" to obtain information, nor should they falsely imply that criminal proceedings will be brought.

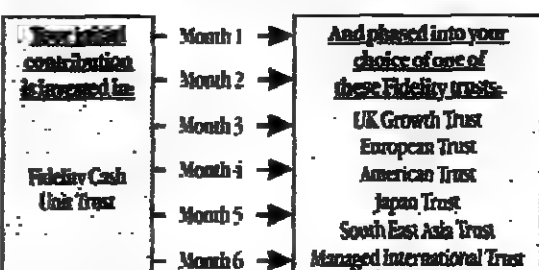
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Form for requesting Fidelity PEP information, including fields for name, address, and contact details.

## Barriers stay put to cheaper cover

By LIZ DOLAN

THE single European market, scheduled for January 1, 1993, should herald cheaper insurance. However, national prejudices, wariness of foreign consumer law and a disinclination to take risks by both insurers and the public is likely to mean a long wait for the advantages to emerge. Jean Eaglesham, of the Consumers' Association, said: "It should open up competition, bring down premiums and give consumers access to a much wider choice of cover. But there are many problems to be ironed out first." Proposals currently under discussion would bind insurers to the rules of their own country rather than the one in which they were doing business. Insurers operating outside their national boundaries will be told not to "violate the legal provisions for the general good" in the country in which they are doing business. "The term is not really defined. The whole thing is a minefield. Claimants could be waiting for three or four years for the European courts to make a decision," said Ms Eaglesham. "We support liberalisation, but the UK consumer must



No change: Brian Griffin wait until the position is clarified." Brian Griffin, adviser on the European Community at Royal Insurance, does not see the position of British policyholders changing much for quite a long time after liberalisation. "It may be possible to buy insurance in other countries, but whether it makes commercial or personal sense is another matter. The key to it all will be claims handling. You don't want to be talking in broken French to your insurer in Paris."

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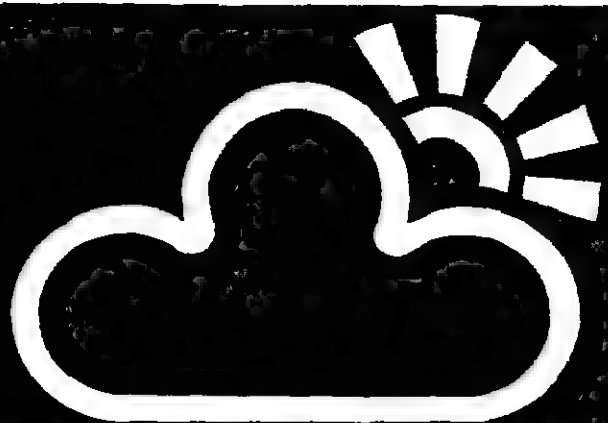
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□ Lloyds Bank is offering students interest-free overdrafts of up to £400 as part of its new student accounts, but only at their bank managers' discretion. Higher overdrafts will cost 1.2 per cent a month (15.3 per cent APR). All first-year students will qualify for the account, which pays interest of 5.5 per cent on credit balances. A £100 cheque guarantee card, commission-free travellers cheques, a Euro-

cheque card and a young person's railcard are part of the package.

□ Home owners moving property and taking out an Abbey National mortgage will receive a 20 per cent discount on the removal cost from Whites and Co as well as a refund of the valuation cost. The Homeowners offer applies to all interest-only, repayment, endowment and pension mortgages and can be combined with discounts for larger loans. First-time buyers and remortgages do not qualify.

□ The C&G Guardian, the centralised lending arm of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, has introduced an American Express gold card for its Lifetime Superlender mortgage customers. The company will pay the first year's gold card membership fee and cut the mortgage rate by 1 per cent for six months. There are no pre-set limits on the card and holders qualify for travel, accident and inconvenience insurance, cheque cashing facilities and cash from 40,000 machines in 26 countries.

□ The Leeds Permanent Building Society will sell shares in Hydro Electric and Scottish Power for £6 for Leeds account holders who use the society's free application service. Customers not using the service will be charged £10 for selling shares through the Leeds. Up to four members of a family with the same surname can deal at these prices. John Siddall & Son, the Manchester solicitor, will sell shares for £5 a certificate. It will move shares into a personal equity plan free of charge.

□ FirstDirect, the telephone banking arm of the Midland Bank, will let customers sell Mirror Group Newspapers shares without certificates for a flat fee of £15 until June 14.

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## Takeovers put share schemes to the test

By BARBARA ELLIS

**TAKEOVER** fever has an added impact on employees of the 1,926 companies like ICI that run SAYE (Save as You Earn) share option schemes, known as sharesave.

They hold options to buy shares in the company at a price fixed up to seven years ago, usually far below the current level fuelled by speculation.

As the ICI price headed towards £13 this week, about 20,000 of the 50,000 workers were holding options to buy at up to 40 per cent less than that.

With sharesave, employees contract to save a monthly amount with a building society for at least five years. The maximum rises from £150 to £250 a month in September. After five years, they qualify for a tax-free bonus equal to 15 months' payments and can use the total savings to buy shares at the price fixed at the start of the scheme.

Those who continue saving for another two years receive a tax-free bonus equivalent to 30 months' contributions. Shares must be bought within six months of the end of the five or seven-year terms.

About 100 ICI employees still hold options, which they acquired in 1985 and can exercise immediately, to buy at 60p. About 3,400 of their fellow savers have already bought shares, doubling the money saved since 1985.

The 1986 scheme maturing this September carried an option price of £9.66. The prices in succeeding years were £13.81 in 1987, £8.91 in 1988, £11.83 in 1989 and £8.14 last year.

A takeover could change the outlook, however. What happens to a sharesave scheme if a takeover goes through depends on the rules of the scheme and the attitude of the predator company. The ICI



ICI's Billingham plant: options vary for employees

scheme allows people changing jobs to exercise their options within six months of leaving the company, and a spokesman said that the same early purchase would be allowed within six months of any takeover.

However, the savers would not receive any tax-free bonus to put towards the shares if they had been saving for less than five years.

An alternative allowed since 1987 is for people to continue only the savings side of a plan, giving up the right to shares. This means that they can still qualify for the bonuses.

If a predator company has its own sharesave scheme, employees in the target company can be offered a switch. When Suter Holdings took over Mitchell Cotts, sharesave option holders were given replacement option certificates substituting free Suter shares for every Mitchell Cotts. The option price became 160p instead of 40p.

It is also technically possible for a company without a sharesave scheme to offer an option switch by issuing option certificates to savers in the company taken over. A company could also make a cash cancellation offer, paying holders the profit they would have made by exercising the options.

On average, for out of ten employees will sign up for a sharesave scheme and six out of ten will stay the course, according to Gordon Skellie, corporate business manager at the Yorkshire Building Society, which runs 170 such schemes. Out of the 30 schemes due to mature this year, 24 have option prices well below the share price.

## CU savers caught out

By SARA MCCONNELL

**INVESTORS** who bought a Commercial Union savings plan in 1986 believing it to be a five-year investment are now discovering that it is a whole life policy with penalties for early surrender. As a result, those choosing to cash in the Prime Saver policy after five years have received less than they put in.

Many investors were attracted to the plan by misleading mailings, sent with bank statements, that said: "After two months you may withdraw the current total value of your units within ten working days. However, it must be remembered that this plan is intended as a five-year plan and that earlier withdrawal

will be without the five-year additional payment."

The leaflet went on: "As an incentive to continue your plan longer than five years and as compensation for the 'loss' of your first two months' premiums, your plan will receive after five years an additional payment equal in value to three times your monthly contribution."

Commercial Union now describes the references to five-year policies as "triggers rather than suggestions that it is solely a five-year contract". A spokesman said the original brochure was quite clear.

People who cash in the policy early will find a greater proportion of their premiums

is taken in charges. The price of units fluctuates throughout the term of the policy and the crash of October 1987 and subsequent volatile markets have affected the value of units for those cashing in now.

Leonard Ken, a pensioner, took out a Prime Saver plan in 1986. He paid £28.20 a month into the policy, a total of £1,692, and got back £1,669.59, a loss of £22.41.

Charges are disproportionately high in the first years of most savings contracts. The first two months' premiums of the plan are not invested at all but go to pay the expenses of selling the policy, including any commission, and more goes in annual charges.

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## Mortgage indemnity fees to rise

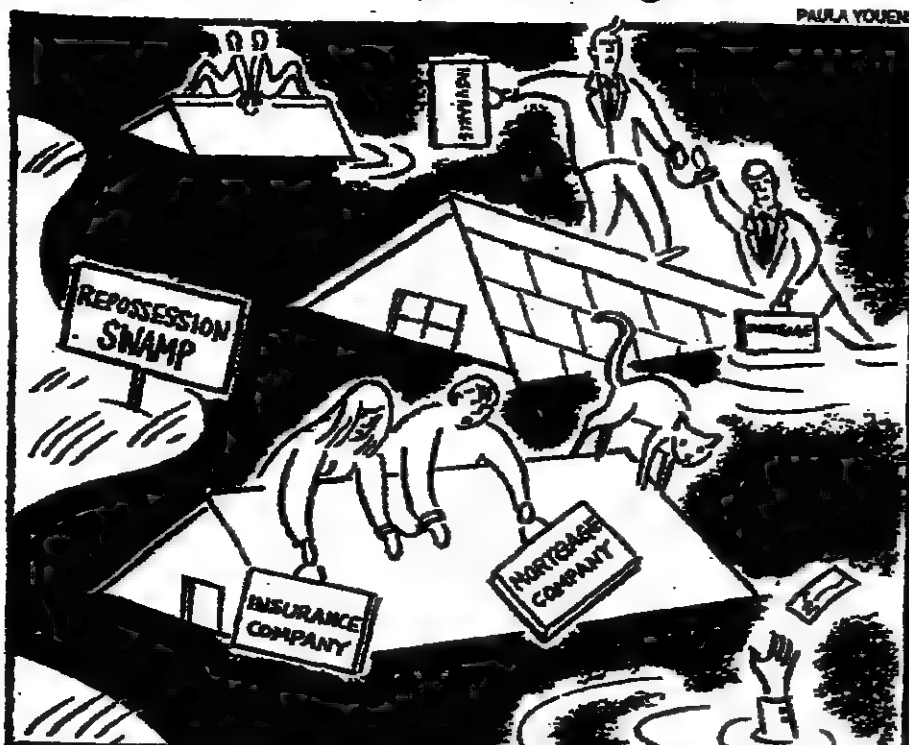
By SARA MCCONNELL

**BORROWERS** taking out mortgages with lenders who have specialised in riskier loans could find themselves paying substantially more for the lender's indemnity cover, insurance companies said this week.

Insurers are facing heavy losses on mortgage indemnity business, due to the large numbers of repossessions in the past two years. The number of repossessions was three times higher last year than in 1989, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders. They are expected to be higher this year.

Lenders normally insist that those borrowing more than 75 per cent of the property pay a one-off premium for indemnity insurance to cover the lender if it has to repossess the property and sell it for less than the value of the loan. Mounting repossessions mean the lender has to claim more often and any increases in premiums are borne by the borrower.

Royal Insurance has announced losses of £17 million on indemnity insurance in the first quarter of this year, up from £3 million the same time last year. The company has given warning that insurers would start discriminating against lenders who lent high income multiples or who did



not check details of earnings. A Royal spokesman said: "The cost of insurance is going up and has to go up. In the late Eighties every lender was charging the same sort of premium but ultimately this cannot be fair. We will have to start charging different premiums to different lenders." Eagle Star will also start

charging more to lenders taking on high risk borrowers. At the moment it charges a flat fee to lenders for indemnity cover, like the Royal. "Eagle Star wants to move towards giving societies cover according to their risk profile," said a spokesman. "Questions are being asked as to whether it is appropriate for

a building society with a bad record to pay the same as one with a good record."

Eagle Star insures the loans of the Leamington Spa Building Society, which specialised in offering mortgages to those who had fallen behind with their payments or had previously had their homes repossessed. Leamington Spa made a loss of £3.6 million in 1990, and made a £26 million provision for bad mortgage debts.

Eagle Star declined to comment on specific lenders but Paul Cox, assistant general manager at Leamington Spa, said: "Insurance companies are looking much more closely at whether we have followed

the rules before they pay out on indemnity claims. They look at credit scoring and income multiples." He estimated that half the society's borrowers had large enough loans to require indemnity insurance.

Lenders with good records on lending and low numbers of repossessions say they would welcome better indemnity rates for their borrowers.

Peter Akers, actuary and manager of financial and insurance at the Abbey National, said: "We don't see why Abbey customers should suffer by having to fund less prudent lenders. Our repossessions are higher but not as high as those who lent imprudently." The Abbey has 1.2 million mortgage accounts and repossessed 4,711 properties last year.

Insurers say that centralised lenders have been particularly hard hit by repossessions after offering large income multiples and not checking the status of prospective borrowers. National Home Loans made a bad debt provision of £11.5 million in the year to March this year and repossessed nearly 1,000 homes.

Nick Watson, manager of underwriting at Sun Alliance, confirmed that the group "had a connection with" NHL but said the company's policy was not to underwrite lenders for business unless it was sure there was proper control on lending.

Lenders claim on their indemnity insurance if they sell a repossessed property for less than the value of the mortgage. Borrowers then have to pay the insurance company, although insurers often do not pursue them.

## Castlegate investors plan action for compensation

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

**INVESTORS** who fear they have lost their life savings through putting money into Castlegate of Reading, the failed financial services group, are planning to take civil action to win compensation. Castlegate Group Holdings went into creditors' voluntary liquidation on December 4, and up to 200 investors may lose up to £20 million.

Investigations by the Serious Fraud Office and Thames Valley fraud squad have been continuing since November. The directors of 15 of the companies within the Capital Fund Owners Plan offered by Castlegate have been instructed by solicitors. They are mostly married couples who invested their savings in the plan, which promised a risk-free return of 20 per cent a year. They are all from the Reading area and customers of National Westminster Bank. Their loss is about £2 million.

They are jointly instructing Kidde Rapinet, the solicitor, of Basingstoke, Hampshire, to act for them and may pursue professionals employed by their companies. A spokesman for Kidde Rapinet said: "They have all concluded they have lost their money and they have no access to any compensation fund. I have been instructed to carry out an

investigation into the role played by professional people instructed by Castlegate in securing loans." National Home Loans, which faces a £3.5 million loss, confirmed yesterday that the managing director of an NHL company had business links with Castlegate long before NHL set up a joint venture with Castlegate.

Paul Alexander, managing director of the Consumer Loans Company, was a director of Hatfield Finance together with Roy Wharton, Castlegate's chairman. Until July 1987, they were the only directors of Hatfield Finance, a company set up under the fund owners plan. Mr Wharton resigned in the summer of 1987 but Mr Alexander remained as a director until last November. He resigned days before Castlegate Group Holdings went into creditors' voluntary liquidation.

It was not until September 1989 that the Consumer Loans Company bought Nightingale Finance. When Castlegate closed, the administrative receivers of two of the companies discovered that Nightingale had the first charge on several properties ahead of other Castlegate companies, which believed they had made earlier

loans on the same properties. Sue Collins of Sorakys Specialised Financial Services, the administrative receiver of two Castlegate companies, said that in one case, a property valued at between £350,000 and £400,000 now had a first loan from Nightingale of £381,000, followed by 20 other loans. A spokesman for NHL said that Mr Alexander had been a director of Hatfield until last November in the full knowledge of NHL. Hatfield did not trade, he added.

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# Levy cuts split racing industry

By RICHARD EVANS

THE racing industry was embroiled in an unprecedented power struggle last night after cuts of more than £8 million were announced by the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

The savage pruning, caused by a downturn in off-course betting turnover, was combined with a radically changed fixture list for 1992.

A two-tier system will see the Levy Board fund 836 "criteria" meetings next year — compared to 1,136 this year — and provide partial support for another 300. Prize-money for some second-tier races could be as low as a few hundred pounds.

The Levy Board's prize-money contribution — 50 per cent of the total — will be pruned by £1 million this year. In 1992 it will be cut from an original figure of £23.1 million to £17.5 million. Additional cuts to daily grants made to courses for staging certain fixtures, support services and veterinary science take the economies past £8 million.

However, the decision, which provoked howls of protest from racecourses, the Jockey Club and owners,

involved altering the fixture list in favour of the bookmakers — without giving extra money in return from the betting industry, which makes profits of £150 million a year.

The 836 meetings to receive full Levy Board support are known as "criteria" fixtures — those which stimulate the most betting turnover, on which the levy is based.

The Levy Board proposal involves increasing the number of criteria fixtures from the existing total of 70, with two meetings on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, three on Thursdays (instead of two) and Fridays and four on Saturdays and Bank Holidays. It is hoped "the Jockey Club and racecourses will be prepared to grant and stage fixtures on this basis."

In a strongly worded statement, the Jockey Club said the additions were "entirely unacceptable to the Jockey Club and the Horseracing Advisory Council, whose representatives on the Levy Board were yesterday outvoted on the issue."

"If the proposal were to be adopted, it would immediately surrender an opportunity for racing to obtain a



Sparrow: "We cannot ignore financial realities"

higher rate of return from the off-course industry for an improved betting product."

Any restructuring "should only take place in return for a realistic commercial payment. The racing industry is not prepared to contemplate changes to the fixture list which are of conspicuously greater benefit to bookmakers than to racing."

"As a result, at their meeting this morning, the stewards decided, in the best long-term interests of horse racing, to reject the Levy Board's proposal for a change

in the criteria."

The Racecourse Association, which represents Britain's 59 tracks, and the Racecourse Owners' Association joined with the Jockey Club in lamenting the decision to have an extra criteria meeting on Thursday without extracting any payment from bookmakers.

While racing now seems set for weeks of bitter wrangling, a solution has to be found by the end of July when the fixture list must be finalised. The dispute centres on who should have the final say on the fixture list and whether bookmakers should pay a price for meetings which boost their profits.

Whatever the outcome, it cannot mask the severity of the cutsback announced by the Levy Board yesterday. In March the board forecast a ten per cent cut; a week ago it doubled the estimate. Now it has come close to trebling the cuts.

Although racing's payments have agreed to meet the full cost of integrity services — such as security and patrol cameras — at second-tier meetings, prize-money support will be between 20 and 50 per cent of the normal rates.

Minimum prize-money levels at criteria fixtures will return "as near as possible" to 1990 levels — £3,000 for Flat races, £2,700 for steeplechases and £1,800 for hurdles.

Where the Levy Board deserves congratulation is for preserving the total number of fixtures which can take place. Smaller courses, who are likely to face the brunt of second-tier meetings, will now be under pressure to find extra revenue and be more imaginative if they are to survive.

Sir John Sparrow, chairman of the Levy Board, said: "The steps we have initiated are, in the board's judgement, in the right ones in the circumstances for the longer term health of the racing industry. We cannot ignore financial realities. Our income must be protected. Our reserves must be rebuilt."

Stanley Jackson, managing director of the RCA, said: "The changes in the Levy Board's estimates meant racecourse financial planning had been 'torn to shreds'. Any implementation of the two-tier system of fixtures should be delayed until 1993 at the earliest, he added.

6.10 Potermin. 6.40 Saafend. 7.10 Trust Deed. 7.40 Timid. 8.10 Running Glimpse. 8.40 Bayonne.

THUNDERER

6.10 Ducky Fuzz. 6.40 Saafend. 7.10 Mashhor. 7.40 Timid. 8.10 Running Glimpse. 8.40 Bayonne.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 7.10 MASHEHOR JOHN (nap).

GOING: GOOD; (GOOD TO FIRM IN BACK STRAIGHT)

DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.10 FRUIT FARM MAIDEN GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES (3-Y-O: £2,174; 70 runners)

1. 000 ANTO MATTO 28 (S) Duff 50. W Newman 11  
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6.40 MURPHY'S STOUT STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,163; 70 (9))

1. 000 ANTO MATTO 28 (S) Duff 50. W Newman 11  
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7.10 WHITBREAD WHITE LABEL STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,418; 1m 20 (16))

1. 000 ANTO MATTO 28 (S) Duff 50. W Newman 11  
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GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)

11.45 NORTH WEST RACING CLUB SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (22,472; 2m 40 (17 runners))

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## Piggott swoops late for Polar Falcon victory

By RICHARD EVANS

ON A drizzly day when a half-demolished stand and piles of rubble at Newbury racecourse seemed to sum up the state of British racing, something called special was required to lift the gloom.

Eater Lester Piggott and a young British trainer based in France who does not have to endure the plight of his financially insecure sport.

John Hammond, a tender 30 years of age, spent two years in Newmarket with Patrick Haslam before crossing the Channel six years ago to become assistant to André Fabre. Two years later he started training on his own in the enchanting surroundings of Chantilly. He is not only an excellent trainer, but charming with it.

Until last Sunday he trained what was thought to be the best three-year-old colt in Europe. Sadly, Saave Dancer destroyed his own reputation in style at Longchamp when trailing in, at 10-1, on a disappointing second in the Prix Lupin.

Yesterday Hammond travelled to Berkshire with Polar Falcon for the judicious Locking Stakes, and as the stalls opened and horse and rider stayed still, he must have feared the journey had been wasted. "It was like a Hamlet cigar advert," he joked later.

Looking through the gloom and drizzle towards the start of the race on the straight mile course it appeared as though horse or jockey had got wedged in the stalls. When Piggott and Polar Falcon finally broke free,

the other three runners were a cricket pitch in front.

The 11 times champion jockey did not panic. Gently but surely he made up the lost ground and just as Steve Caution looked set to sail for home on In The Groove a furlong out, the old maestro swooped.

Coming down the stands side on probably the better ground he quickened dramatically aboard Polar Falcon to win by two lengths. Pure magic, unless you backed In The Groove, the 2-1 on favourite. Nothing is going right for David Elsworth at the moment.

Piggott may have decided to favour the stands side after watching the previous race and



Piggott inspired tactical ride on Polar Falcon

the exploits of his old rival, Willie Carson on Hillzack.

Carson finished on the stands side when beating Latour by a neck in the Ultramar Handicap, not that the diminutive Scottish rider had much to do with it as the Peter Walwyn-trained colt veered across the course.

Judged by the jockey's remarks on unsaddling in the winner's enclosure, Hillzack's steepest is suspect. "He has been all over Newbury," he told Walwyn. "So have you," replied the trainer as quick as a flash. "I'll give you a map next time."

This represented an ambivalent reversal of French form. Gauges having beaten Lycius in a good finish to the Prix Djebeil in April. The Newmarket form looks the more reliable.

It was a very dry day at the Curragh yesterday with the advance going good. For the first time in the history of the European classics, there will be an American challenge as Leo O'Brien has flown over from Florida.

Even though O'Brien is Irish, this is no mere sentimental participation for his runner was rated the best of his age on grass in the United States last season.

There are a couple of foreign lines to the hit with the European scene: he has beaten a neck by the French challenger River Traffic (rated at 114 in the international classification) in the Laurel Futurity; and when galloping in the group three Greenlands Stakes (60) where Reference Light should turn the tables on 14th best terms for three lengths.

The third English challenger here is Sir Harry Hardman, who mounted a very successful Irish raid, but suffered a winning in the 143,000 in a 6000 sponsorship at Phoenix Park. Francis Lee's colt makes a very quick reappearance after finishing fourth in Green Line Express at York on Thursday.

From OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

LYCIUS can become the first French-trained winner of the Irish Calabar Prince and Rinkia Dan, are both a stone below classic level.

The sole English challenger, Melbury, failed to concede the fully 100 in a graduation race at Sandown and does not appear good enough.

Summing up, Lycius is taken to endorse the Newmarket Gauges form by beating Gauges again and, hopefully, Fourstars Allstar will reward his connections' endeavour by taking third place.

The Tattersalls Rogers Gold Cup (1m 20) was deprived of its star when the dry ground brought about the overnight withdrawal of the French Derby winner Sanglamore.

Pasoramic and Zoman should now prove too good for Topanora with Pasoramic taken to outstay Zoman, whose best form is over a mile, and thus complete the Fabre-Caution double.

Montendre and Reference Light, second and third to Norton Challenger at Thirsk, could be the group three Greenlands Stakes (60) where Reference Light should turn the tables on 14th best terms for three lengths.

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## Treble Chance treatment to yield Ystrad dividend

By BRIAN BEEL

Treble Chance, a possible contender for the Times Championship final at Towcester next Friday, may run in the adjacent race at the Ystrad point-to-point today to ascertain whether recent chiropractic treatment has remedied problems which were believed to be causing him to skew his fences.

If all is well he should win at the expense of New River and another Times qualifier, Chantilly. Ystrad will be racing at their new course at Llanwrog in Mid Glamorgan.

Entries were sparse at this time last season but, for today's three meetings, the remarkable total of 547 have been received.

The Delveries West have 193 and here Justin Farthing will be hoping to increase his lead in the men's title race having Oubart, Enchanting River and Seal Prince as possible rivals.

Alison Dare, one up for the ladies' title, looks likely to maintain her advantage with possible successes on Fennelly and Mendip Express while her rival, Pip Nash is due to make a late decision as to whether to run in the adjacent race at the Ystrad.

Until finding out the likely opposition, owners with dual engagements for their horses at the Melton are not committing themselves to specific races so making selections is not easy.

As the open race will be difficult to win, Wolfies Delight may be well advised to go for the family race, while Speaker's Cornet could take advantage of the conditions in the restricted.

This would leave the open between Dromia Joker and Caroline Saunders's pair, Nelma and Gentle Approach.

Sandstone Arch, one of the top horses qualified for the Times final, should run well in the North Western Area Point-to-Point championship at Bangor but, on this occasion, may find the experience of the former Generalist a little daunting. Warleggan, too much to overcome.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Duvernay West, Towcester, 10m 40 of South Melton (first two 2.00, Melton Hunt Club, 2.00, 5m 40 of Melton Melton (2.00), Ystrad, Llanwrog, 3m 50 of Mountain Ash (4.00).

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Great all-rounder recalled to England squad

## Botham revives memories of the glory days

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

WORCESTER (final day of three): Worcestershire drew with the West Indians

IAN Botham's phenomenal career, sadly reduced last winter to playing a bit-part in a minor pantomime, completed its renaissance yesterday when he was recalled by England and immediately scored 161 against the touring West Indians.

Even by Botham's unique standards, this was a day to stretch credibility. England's first party of the summer, for the Texaco Trophy one-day international, was released at noon. Ten minutes earlier, Botham had marched to the middle at New Road with Worcestershire 60 for four, Hick and Moody gone and the follow-on a possibility.

No sooner had the public address system announced the selection details, of which he had prior knowledge, than Botham launched into all our yesterdays. His first century against the West Indies took him only 83 balls and, in all, he hit a six and 32 fours in an innings of astonishing power.

After four years in which, between injuries, he had mustered only two first-class centuries, this was his second in eight days. But it was more than that. It was the first serious indication that the compromises Botham has made to prolong his career have not extracted the extraordinary flair which, a decade ago, made him the world's most awesome cricketer.

The West Indians sensed it, too. One could see it in their expressions and reactions. Some of them clapped politely when he reached his century; some did not. From slip, Vivian Richards loudly exhorted his bowlers to greater efforts to dislodge his oldest

friend. None held back. This was no picnic-match slog against disinterested bowling. It was a stunning, quality assault on the best the touring side had to offer.

It will not always turn out so sweetly, and Botham has the bruises to remind him. He was stretched on the treatment table, ice packs on his right shoulder and left foot, as the game reached its academic conclusion but, having reclaimed what once was his by right, he was not about to indulge in any bitterness about the last years.

"It is frustrating not to play," was as far as he would go. "But self-doubts? Certainly not. I have reached the stage now where I just go out and play. My priority this year was just to get into the Worcestershire side, let alone England. As for being back on trial, I am 35 now. Will I still be on trial at 50?"

Botham confirmed what we already knew: "The most important thing for me is to have another crack in the Test arena." But Ted Dexter's hint that the selectors are looking ahead for the World Cup gave him food for thought. "I suppose that would be a nice way to finish," he said.

Worcestershire had rapidly lost three international bats-

men at the start of play. Curtis was caught at fourth slip from Patterson's first ball. Hick tried to cut a ball of fullish length and played on, and Moody was run out. When Botham entered, 200 runs were needed to avoid the follow-on; he provided 148 of them.

The applause which greeted the team announcement seemed to inspire him. He clubbed the next ball, from Anthony, through cover for four and added four more boundaries in the next eight balls. Some were strokes of such audacity that one could think of few others capable of playing them.

He was largely responsible for Neale's run out after a stand of 136 in 21 overs but, in the next over, he reached his century with a pulled six off Simmons. His second 50 had taken only 38 balls and Botham punched the air with both arms in triumph. He has had a long wait for another moment like this. Few will begrudge him the glory.

WEST INDIES: First innings 409 for 7 dec (P V Simmons 134, 114 A Richardson 151).  
Second innings  
C G Greenidge not out 12  
P V Simmons not out 34  
Extras 20  
Total 206  
Worcestershire: First innings  
T S Curtis c Lara b Patterson 30  
G A Hick c Hope b Patterson 11  
G A Hick b Allen 11  
T M Moody run out 11  
P A Wade run out 11  
I T Botham c Allen b Anthony 10  
P J Newport c Greenidge b Patterson 10  
R L Llewellyn c Allen b Patterson 9  
R K Ringworth b Walsh 4  
G R Dwyer not out 4  
Extras 10  
Total 148

Worcestershire: Second innings  
T S Curtis c Lara b Patterson 30  
G A Hick c Hope b Patterson 11  
G A Hick b Allen 11  
T M Moody run out 11  
P A Wade run out 11  
I T Botham c Allen b Anthony 10  
P J Newport c Greenidge b Patterson 10  
R L Llewellyn c Allen b Patterson 9  
R K Ringworth b Walsh 4  
G R Dwyer not out 4  
Extras 10  
Total 148

England squad, page 38



Tying a knot in it: Jill Smith, the deputy administration manager of the Football Association, prepares the FA Cup for whatever eventuality may occur at Wembley today. If Nottingham Forest win, the ribbon must be red; if it is Tottenham Hotspur's day, it will have to be white

## Sun setting on Venables empire

By CLIVE WHITE

MOST FA Cup final managers have earned the right to try to relax and await the big day as best they could, but not Terry Venables. He was still busy yesterday in the almost certainly forlorn attempt to take over Tottenham Hotspur and keep his team intact.

The chances of Venables's consortium taking over Tottenham grow slimmer with every day the club falls deeper into debt to their various creditors who, even by conservative estimates, are owed about £20 million.

Barrying a success off the field which would far outperform that by Tottenham on it today against Nottingham Forest at Wembley, Paul Gascoigne will become a Lazio player before the end of next week for a world record fee of £7.5 million. And, of more personal interest to the player, he will be a millionaire five times over by the end of his four years in Rome.

If that were the full extent of Tottenham's losses, the club just might be able to look forward to next season with a semblance of confidence, particularly if Europe back-

oned. But win, lose or draw today the team stands on the brink of dissolution.

It was revealed this week, with uncommonly bad timing, that Gary Lineker, the leading goalscorer and England captain, will be sold to ease the debt, much to the player's annoyance. And it has been rumoured that new homes have been found for Gary Mabbutt, Paul Stewart and Nayim, three of the club's more saleable individuals.

By perhaps no more than a neat coincidence the sale of all four players plus Gascoigne would possibly just be enough to wipe out the £12 million

overdraft to Midland Bank, their major creditor, who are urgently seeking assurances from Tottenham as to how they mean to repay this sum.

The release of Gascoigne - Lazio hope to agree personal terms with him before next week's game against Sampdoria - would signal the failure of Venables's consortium to wrest control of the club from the current board. It would also make the position of Venables, whose contract expires in the summer, untenable and his own departure inevitable.

Since none of the leading English clubs, other than Chelsea,

where the ambitious Venables might find himself again hamstrung, if for different reasons, would appear to be in a position to offer him work, Venables would also seem destined to go abroad.

Whether or not Lineker would agree to a move depends upon what kind of future faces Tottenham. He turned down a move to Torino after the World Cup finals last summer and earlier this season was quoted as saying: "I am under contract and if I don't want to go, I don't go."

But before his move from Barcelona to Tottenham three

seasons ago he expressed an interest in a move to Italy. During his time in Spain, Lineker was tremendously popular as a player and as a person and it is understood that Real Madrid would not bank at meeting a £2 million asking price for probably the cheapest 30-year-old around in international football.

Real are unlikely to offer Hugo Sanchez a new contract and besides the player is out of action because of injury until the end of the year. They recently approached Chelsea to see if they could sign Kerry Dixon on loan until the end of the season, but were turned down.

Lineker, who still has two years to run on his contract, was recently at loggerheads with his club over conflicting tours abroad this summer. He insisted that as England captain it was more important that he tour Australia and New Zealand with the national squad than join Tottenham on their tour of Japan and Hawaii and would appear to have won that particular battle. Gascoigne, needless to say, is not scheduled to tour with anyone.

## Scottish Cup final is a sell-out

WHATEVER other predictions may be made about today's events at Hampden Park, this year's Scottish Cup final has already confounded those who suggested that, in the absence of either member of the Old Firm, and following only a week after the Scottish League decider between Rangers and Aberdeen, we would witness an anti-climax rather

than the culminating fixture of the domestic season (Roddy Forsyth writes). Yesterday, the Scottish Football Association (SFA) announced that all 63,000 tickets have been sold and they warned those without tickets to stay clear of the national stadium today.

Both Dundee United and Motherwell asked the SFA for a supplementary allocation of

tickets earlier in the week and the reports from each side of the country suggest that if 80,000 had been available, the supply would still not have been sufficient to cope with demand.

DUNDEE UNITED (probable): A Main, J Clark, F Watt, G Brown, M Kennedy, M Macdonald, D Brown, W McInnes, J McInnes, P Connolly, H French, D Jackson.

MOTHERWELL (probable): A Main, J Clark, F Watt, G Brown, M Kennedy, M Macdonald, D Brown, W McInnes, J McInnes, P Connolly, H French, D Jackson.

## Gower accepts omission

DAVID Gower said yesterday that it had not come as a "huge shock" to be excluded from England's Texaco Trophy squad to face West Indies.

The former captain reflected that had he matched Ian Botham's impressive start to the season, he could have joined his old team-mate in

the one-day series. "The news wasn't entirely unexpected. Ian has done what I had hoped to do. Perhaps they couldn't have coped with the pair of us," Gower said. He is left to wonder if he will ever have the chance of scoring the 34 Test runs he needs to overtake Geoff Boycott's England

record aggregate of 8,114. "The yardstick is form and I'd be the first to admit I haven't exactly kept the scoreboards whirring around the country in the last two or three weeks. My form has been a bit of bad timing. It's obviously up to me to get my act together properly."

## Jaguar give British hopes a head start

By NORMAN HOWELL

JAGUAR embarrassed Mercedes and Peugeot at Silverstone yesterday, the first day of official practice for the third round of the sportscar world championship. Martin Brundle was more than two seconds faster than his Jaguar team-mate, Derek Warwick, and nearly six seconds ahead of Mercedes.

On a wet and miserable day at Silverstone, the British cars dominated the qualifying session. The track dried as the afternoon wore on but the dry racing line was so narrow that it caused a number of traffic problems, of which Warwick was a notable victim.

Brundle, who has just returned from testing the Brabham-Yamaha at the Magny-Cours circuit in France, was pleased with his perfor-

mance. He said: "I managed to find three or four clear laps and popped in a fast time. It requires a lot of concentration when the weather conditions are like this, so we'll all be pleased if it's a dry day tomorrow."

Mercedes is racing with two different types of engine, a normally-aspirated V12 and a V8 Turbo, while the Jaguars both have their own V8 engine. The domination of the Jaguars, prepared by Tom Walkinshaw Racing, confirmed the potential shown at Monza earlier in the month, when Brundle and Warwick lapped all the other competitors, including the second Jaguar.

The other works team, Peugeot, did not fare much better than Mercedes yesterday. Keke Rosberg was seven seconds behind the Jaguars, while Philippe Alliot was nine seconds off the pace.

## Woosnam keeps challenge on track

CASTELCONTURBIA (Agen- cies) - Ian Woosnam maintained his challenge for the Italian Open with a second round of 71 for a share of the lead. The US Masters champion and world No. 1, followed up his opening 69 to join David Gifford, of England, on a four-under-par 140.

Woosnam, after completing his round yesterday, called for two-shot penalties to be dropped on the sport's slow players to stop the sport becoming a bore. As the former Masters winner, Bernhard Langer, headed home with a back injury that could keep him out of next week's Volvo PGA championship, Woosnam put in a complaint about the painful pace of play.

"It took five hours three minutes to get round. I could do it in 3½ hours easy and I don't see why it takes so much longer," he said. "We have a guideline of four hours three minutes and as soon as someone goes over it should be 'bang - two-shot penalty'. That would get them moving."

Woosnam, who advocates easier pin placements on the first two days to speed play up, said he could not keep his concentration with all the waiting.

The Welshman, aged 33, birdied his first hole, the long 10th, but took a double-bogey seven on the 543-yard 14th, just failing

to make the carry across a lake and then three-putting from six feet.

He hit back by picking up three birdies in four holes from the 16th, but found snafus at his closing hole and missed a five-footer to save par.

Gifford, aged 25, a former English amateur champion and Walker Cup player, saved his best until last. At the same 481-yard par-four 9th he struck a

three-iron to three feet. It was his fifth birdie of the day and the first might easily have been an eagle. He struck a three-wood to eight feet on the 10th, but failed with the putt.

Paul Way, of Kent, the joint overnight leader with the Australian, Wayne Riley, also said he became bored, but a 73 kept him in the hunt at three under. Riley had a 75.

Langer resumed on six over and had dropped seven more strokes when he withdrew before completing the outward half. "I've had back problems for 15 years and I felt it again," he said. "I'm going to see a specialist and won't know about Wentworth next week until he's examined me."

The defending champion, Richard Buxall, shot an 87 and, on 20 over par, missed the cut by 13 strokes. The Ryder Cup player, Mark James, was only four shots better after a 82 - both had a nine on their cards.

## A say for people who have finally had enough

SIMON BARNES  
ON SATURDAY

Today the week's secondary sporting event takes place. This is the FA Cup final. The main event, of course, will always be the build-up. This becomes truer every year, and when I speak to Australian friends of this malaise, they go misty-eyed and talk about The Anti-Football League: a formidable counterblast to Melbourne's obsession with the Grand Final of Australian rules football.

The AFL was founded in 1967 as a journalist stunt by Keith Dunstan, a Melbourne columnist. His initiative brought him some memorable letters, and here are two fairly representative samples: "You got to be a Commo or a poofier. It's the only way I can explain someone doing a thing like that in Melbourne." "My mild pleasure in football has been killed by the over-present mass-media playing each

game in prospect, actuality and retrospect and my Saturday-night parties are ruined by the boredom of football conversations by the vocal minority." Only one of these letters came from a university reader in psychology.

The AFL ran and ran and still runs. It has raised money for charity, it has held an "anti-beauty contest", it has presented an annual award to the person who has done least for football throughout the year. It held a ceremonial burning of a football "that had been kicked by Royce Hart" - it's hard to imagine anything more blasphemous isn't it?

This took place before a non-audience of 60,000 people - all of whom had paid to stay

away. The AFL survives to this day, and this column sends greetings to all members. The worst thing in sport is humourlessness, after all.

□ The Romanians have a rugby side touring New Zealand, the first tour they have undertaken since the political storms of December 1989. The tour began with the loss of all their gear: it all ended up in Los Angeles and the poor players arrived in New Zealand with nothing but the clothes they stood in. Their coach, Petre Ionescu, said: "Every last day is a tragedy. We can't train properly." A national menswear firm kindly gave them new bags and plenty of underwear.

A joke too far

It is talk about Gazza the person of the day if ever there was one - going to play his football for

Lazio in Rome fills one with foreboding. Quite apart from anything else, there is his reputation for indulging in that socially acceptable form of sadism known as practical joking. Perhaps he should learn from a previous player at Lazio, also renowned as a practical joker. This was Luciano Re Ceccone. In 1977, this respected footballer decided to visit a friend of his who ran a jewellery shop. Inevitably, he wrapped a scarf over his face, thrust a hand, gun-wise, into his pocket, and burst into the shop, shouting to everyone to raise their hands, this was a stick-up. The grim tale concludes with the jeweller producing a real gun and shooting his unrecognized friend dead.

□ I extend my sympathy to the members of the Irish women's hockey team, who, at the European Cup in Brussels,

gave in all their dirty kit to a laundry which they subsequently discovered was the front for a brothel. Though disconcerted, they were equal to the occasion: a doughty delegation managed to retrieve the laundry without compromise.

Hugo a no-go

These are hard times for the Maradona clan. As if Diego's insistence on acting out a Latino version of *The Rake's Progress* were not enough, his younger brother, Hugo, has been voted No. 1 on the flop list of Austrian football. This honour comes courtesy of the Austrian newspaper, *Kurier*. Hugo Maradona was hired by the football club, Rapid Vienna, for a wage of £4,000 a week, plus car and flat. He has played a total of 94 minutes this season and, showing all the diplomatic

skills for which his family is renowned, he said on a recent radio programme: "I don't have any aims at this club, and I'm just waiting for my money."

Feathers ruffled

Last Sunday the Tewin Irregulars took on the Royal Society For The Protection of Birds, and came second. Quite remarkably, it looks as if I will once again fail to make 1,000 runs in May. Our next fixture is unlikely to be before mid-June, and despite my valiant efforts, I still have 1,000 runs to go. Best shot of the game was my successful attempt to distract the entire fielding side by pointing out, an overflying cuckoo.

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